Tech Wins 2 Games

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BLACKSBURG — Merciful darkness and the end of two games saved Toledo's pitching staff from any further embarrassment at living up to the school's nickname.

That's because Virginia Tech launched five rockets here Sunday in two games that spelled doom for Toledo, known as the Rockets.

The Hokies won the first game 7-5 and a two-run blast by Harold Williams gave Tech a cushion that it needed when the fielding collapsed late in the game.

In the second game, Tech used four homeruns to produce its first five runs on the way to a 6-1 win. The Tech home run hitters had to share honors with pitcher Duke Dickerson, who was in control all the way as he scattered eight hits.

Wayne Shelton led Tech's second-game attack as he hit a leadoff homer to open the scoring in the second inning.

Later, Shelton hustled a single into a double and wound up the day with two hits in three trips. The rest of the time he walked.

The Tech catcher now has a batting average near .400 and has hit seven homers. He hit only seven homers last year, but this season he must be considered a genuine threat for the NCAA title which was won with 23 last year.

Salem's Sandy Hill, mired in a slump until Sunday, homered in the second game as did Steve Deed and Tony Merts. For Hill, the Homer capped a big day as he collected three hits in the opener. All this is sure to send his anemic .125 to a season average of .350.

Bobby Fisher got the opening win. It should have been easy, but an error let in three unearned runs in the fifth inning and made what should have been a breeze close.

However, it is Shelton that is pacing the attack. He gave Tech a lift and the rest of the Tech offense which is starting to wake up.

"I was hitting a couple of weeks ago," said Shelton, "but there was no one on base.

"One of the keys was Sandy hitting the ball. Really, we've been waiting to break out.

Shelton just shakes off any thought of winning an NCAA home run title.

"My freshman year I hit three or four, then cooled off. Really, I'm a streak hitter. I think the thing about this team is that everybody can hit a homer."

Tech Coach Bob Humphreys admitted he was happy with the twin win, which puts his team at 6-7 and gives the Hokies five victories in their last six games.

"You saw that first game. That's errors that has killed us," said Humphreys. "But we're starting to swing the bat some now.

Humphreys was encouraged that Williams is starting to hit, noting that the freshman's two strikeouts in six plate appearances was even an improvement over the early season.

As for Shelton, Humphreys says, "I don't talk to him about hitting, I just hope he keeps hitting the way he is.

"He's strong enough so that he might hit 35 if he keeps on getting good pitches and doesn't get into bad habits."

Tech takes off this afternoon to prepare for the first game of the year against arch rival Virginia tomorrow in Charlottesville.

First Game
Virginia Tech 7, Toledo 5

Toledo 100 031 0 5--2
Virginia Tech 121 1 0 1--8 2

Ernie Bacal (47 and Karabin, McMullin (8); Fisher and Williams. HP--Toledo; Virginia Tech: Williams. 2B--Toledo, three on. WP--Fisher (47); L--Ernst (8).)

Second Game
Virginia Tech 6, Toledo 0

Toledo 000 012 0 0--0
Virginia Tech 200 111 0 4--4 1

Stularstienman, Brumennemark (2) and McMullin; Dickerson and Shelton. 2B--none on. Merts, 2nd, one on. Doul, 4th, none on. Doul; McPherson--Dickerson (2); L--Stularstienman (1-2).