Virginia Tech Sweeps 2 From Richmond; W&M, Apprentice Play At Home Today

From Wire Dispatches

Effficient pitching by Dean Powell, and Jim Puglisi gave Virginia Tech’s Gobblers a 4-3, 12 sweep of a baseball doubleheader Sunday over Richmond’s Spiders.

The Spiders took a 3-0 lead in the first two innings of the opener before Powell, a junior college transfer making his first appearance, came on in relief to allow just three singles while striking out seven in the last 5 2/3 innings.

Tech (10-7) scored all its four runs in the third on two walks, two singles and a Richmond error, the only miscue of the two games. The big hit was a two-run single by Rick Wade.

Val Hundley’s two-run homer in the second inning gave Richmond (12-11) a 2-0 lead in the nightcap, but Puglisi stopped the Spiders after that with two singles while pitching a three-hitter.

Four walks led to a pair of Tech runs in the third, and the Gobblers won it with two in the fifth on a walk, two singles and a sacrifice fly. Wayne Shelton hit the sacrifice fly, Dennis Duff an RBI single.

In other State baseball games Sunday, back-to-back homers in the third inning by Jerry Crain and Dan McCarthy provided the winning runs Sunday in Old Dominion’s 4-1 victory over Hampden-Sydney and Madison split a doubleheader with Rhode Island.

The Dukes won the first game 15-1, then lose 3-1.

Crain also drove in a run in the seventh with a single as Old Dominion evened record at 8-8.

Three pitchers — Gary Orlando, Rob Martin and Tony Thomas — combined to limit Hampden-Sydney to four hits as the Tigers’ record dropped to 6-9.

Virginia’s game at Duke was rained out.

Richmond plays a doubleheader at William & Mary today and Oswego State visits the Newport News Apprentice School for another pair.

In the Southern Conference, the Citadel’s Bulldogs and East Carolina’s Pirates, two perennial powers, are off and running toward the baseball title, but a couple of league newcomers are right on their heels.

The Bulldogs and the Pirates gained a tie for the lead with 4-0 conference records Saturday with doubleheader sweeps. The Citadel knocked off William and Mary’s Indians, 1-0 and 4-1, and East Carolina whipped Furman’s defending champion Paladins, 9-3 and 3-2.

But Western Carolina’s Catamounts, idle Saturday, are right behind at 2-0 and Marshall’s Thundering Herd moved into fourth place at 3-1 with a 5-0 sweep of Davidson’s Wildcats.

A fourth conference doubleheader Saturday saw Virginia Military’s Keydets win for the first time, beating Appalachian State 12-10 in the second game of a doubleheader on Bruce Reiner’s grand slam at the Mountaineers took the opener 11-3 with the aid of four homers.

Trailing the four league leaders are William and Mary at 6-4, Appalachian at 1-3, Davidson at 2-6 and Furman and VMI at 1-5.

The emphasis was definitely on hitting in the Appalachian-VMI twin bill.