Solid Pitching Keys Gobbler Wins

By JACK BOGACZYK
Sports Writer

BLACKSBURG — Relief pitchers usually come in from the bullpen. But Sun-
day Virginia Tech fireman Dean Powell came from nowhere.

Several weeks ago, Powell had both eyes covered with patches as a virus infec-
tion affected his vision. But on a gloomy, raw day, Powell found both the plate and
himself.

The former Ferrum College and Frank-
lin County High left-hander hurled 5½ in-
nings of scoreless relief as the Gobblers
came from behind for a 4-3 win over Rich-
mond in the opener of a doubleheader.

Then, right-hander Jim Puglisi followed
Powell’s major college debut with a three-
hitter as Tech completed its sweep with a
4-2 triumph.

As recently as a week ago, Tech Coach
Bob Humphreys had counted Powell out
for this season. But when sore-armed Bob
Fisher—the ex-Patrick Henry High hurler—
got in trouble early in Sunday’s opener, the
Tech pilot made the left-handed motion to
the bullpen.

“I had it in my mind I was going to fin-
ish when I came in,” said Powell, who per-
mittted just three hits and struck out seven
Spiders in his first appearance. “I was com-
fortable out there, and once I got going it
all came back to me. My fastball was mov-
ing really well.”

Humphreys and Powell had talked ear-
lier this season, and the Tech coach said
the pair decided it would be best for the
junior southpaw to sit out the year on a
red-shirt ticket.

“We both agreed that was what was
going to happen,” said Humphreys, whose
team has been looking for pitching help all
year en route to a 10-7 record. “Then, he
started getting ants in his pants.”

“Dean came to me and said that since
we had about 30 games left, he’d like to go
ahead and try to play. It wasn’t like he was
going out there cold today, because he’s
been pitching batting practice as much as
possible.”

In the nightcap, Tech came from be-
hind again to stretch its winning streak to
seven games. Puglisi, now 2-2, made his
only mistake with a changeup-slider that
Richmond’s Val Hundley pounded for a
two-run homer in the second.

But Tech tied the score on a pair of
walks, a ground out and a wild pitch in the
third. And the Gobbler struck twice more
in the fifth to give Puglisi all the help he
needed.

Dan Griel started the winning rally with
a bunt single, and Wade sacrificed him
to second. Griel then went to third on a
wild pitch and Sandy Hill walked. A sacri-
ifice fly by Shelton sent Griel home with the
go-ahead run, and Dennis Duff singled
across the final run.

Puglisi struck out eight, finishing
strong with seven of those whiffs in the last
four innings. The junior from Arlington re-
tired 11 of the last 13 men he faced.

Virginia Tech 4-4, Richmond 3-2
First Game

Richmond
120 000 0—3 5 1
Virginia Tech
000 400 x—4 4 0

Martin and Shelton; Manwaring (4); Fisher, Powell (2) and Shelton.

Second Game

Richmond
002 009 0—1 2 3 0
Virginia Tech
002 028 x—4 4 0

Watson, Cooke (5) and Manwaring; J. Puglisi and
Shelton.

Home run — Hundley (R), 2nd, one on.