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YORKTOWN’S WILLIE MASON NIPPEd AT WIRE
Russell Smelley Edges Defending Champ In 800 Meters

State Crown Goes To VPI Trackmen,
W&M Shares 3rd

By GEORGE WATSON
Daily Press Sports Writer

“They just outgunned us.”

With that statement, William and Mary Coach Baxter Berryhill succinctly summed up Saturday’s end to the Tribe’s 14-year reign as State outdoor track and field kings.

The “they” in Berryhill’s reference were Virginia Tech’s Gobblers who outpointed Virginia for the State crown at W&M’s sun-baked Cary Field.

The Gobblers accumulated 133 points to 121 ½ for the Cavaliers. The host Indians and VMI deadlock for third with 88 apiece while Richmond, led by sensational Kenyan freshman Hillary Tuwei, finished fifth with 79.

“It used to be that we could put 35 guys on the track to run and three to four in every event,” explained Berryhill. “Today we had 15 on the track and they (VPI) had the 35.”

Virginia Tech Coach Russ Whitneyack was elated over the performance of his squad which had finished second, 19 points behind the Indians, in this past Winter’s State indoor shootout.

“We know we had a really good shot at winning, but to be honest, I thought William and Mary would be in it to the last event.”

“Our kids really had it in their minds to win,” Whitneyack continued. “They decided that they wouldn’t let those green jerseys (W&M) scare them this time.”

“I’m just as proud as I can be of these guys,” the Gobblers’ boss said. “I can’t single out any individuals.

As the cliche goes, it was a great team effort. Our depth really paid off.

Indeed, the Gobblers depth did pay big dividends as the winners topped only three individual titles.

Robert Drum, a graduate of Bethel High School, won the hammer throw, Dennis Scott nipped teammate Larry Fallin to take the 100 meter dash crown and pole vaulter Keith Neff set one of three meet records for the day by winning his event with a vault of 16-feet-7½ inches.

Scott just missed pulling a double, being edged at the tape by Virginia State’s John Christian in the 200 meters. Fallen appeared to have the 200 meters locked up for the Gobblers, but pulled a hamstring muscle about 15 yards from the end and could not finish.

Other records which tumbled during the competition were by VMI’s Malcolm Grimes in the triple jump and by Tuwei in the 3,000 meter steeplechase.

All other times in the running events were records since it was the first time they were run in meters.

Grimes, a product of Denigh High School, leaped 50-9¾ to break the old mark by three and a half inches. Ironically, the old standard was also held by a former Peninsula athlete, Keith Witherspoon.

A standout at Newport News’ old Huntington High, Witherspoon had set the mark last year while repre-