Tech baseball keeps on winning and does it with balance rather than power.

The team, which has a 22-game winning streak and a 25-7 record, is not even halfway through the season. Tech has only two—count 'em, two—300 plus hitters. Dennis Duff led the pack with .349 and Wayne Shelton’s average was .310.

Among those who had played in 16 games or more, batting average ranged from .232 to .328. Tech’s average was back above .300 to Tony Mets’ .279 and included Steve Dodd’s .278 and Rick Wade’s .275.

The pitching has held up better than some had expected in the opening two months. The super reliever had returned to the ball team out as Orvin Kierer did last year.

Like all Tech teams, the baseballs have been stronger at home, where Tech is 4-1 and 10-5 on the road. Tech has dropped four one-run games and won four by that margin.

One lucky statistic is that the Hokies have had only five rainouts, not at all bad for uncertain spring weather.

Dickerson led pitchers with 7-1, Jim Pagliot was 5-2, Mike Rhodes had a 4-1 record, John Power was 30-4 and Dean Powell and Bob Fisher each had won five games.

Powell increased his mark to three wins with a near-shutout over Milligan.

The team, lacking awesome power, have found that they can outsmart their opponents or just out—opportunity them. Tech is constantly on the alert for an opponents mistakes and almost always capitalizes on them.

One of Tuesday’s best defensive plays demonstrated that the team can come up with the kind of big defensive play that is demoralizing to the opposing team. Running for their runs in the last of the fifth the Hokies shut down Milligan rapidly in the top of the sixth. With one out, a Milligan player led off on a short to right field which was fielded by Sandy Hill.

Former Radford Bobcat David “Beaver” Young, Milligan’s third baseman, tagged up at second and headed for third, looking in vain for a throw from the basemen. A throw from Hill was late and the ball rolled almost to the outfield fence. Hill fired a rifle shot to third baseman Mike Preissing (still filling in for injured Rick Wade) to complete a brilliant double play.

Century Mark

The Hokies face several challenges today at Tech Park. One is just to get in the game, in since bad weather has prevented in recent years at every home game scheduled with West Virginia.

Another is the Mountaineer team. Tech split with WVU last season at Morgantown and feels it can do better than that.

This year, the Mountaineers are won 10-8, 14-7. Bill Humphreys has coached Tech baseball to 99 wins against the final four of his fourth season.

Humphreys has an aim higher than that and it can’t start to be accomplished unless and until the team chalks up more wins, gets into post season competition and does better than it did last year.

Shawnee Milestone

The Shawnee High girls varsity tennis team will have other wins, but probably none as satisfying as the recent one against Auburn.

It was the first win ever for the first year squad and even things up for a big loss earlier.

The outlook was promising at midweek for the boys team as well, since they recently wiped out two district opponents in a row.

Showdown Postponed

Blackburg’s baseball rendezvous with destiny, New River style, was weathered out Wednesday when the Giles coach notified Indian coach Bill Dickerson that the game’s 13 0-1, due to snow and sleet in Pearisburg.

A date for a makeup game will be set soon.

The weather in Blackburg and Pearisburg is no problem but playable, with a temperature of 45 during the Tech-Milligan game.

Ouch, Brave

Does an old fashioned “cold and blowing” 0-1 have any place in the advanced world of modern major league baseball with its sophisticated players, monumental salaries and scoreboards that play a 10-2 game? Milligan Scousa sundays and run cartoon shows?

Ask your neighborhood Cincinnati fan or ask Sparky Anderson, who read the riot act (or wrote his own new one) in the New York World. He was as rioting as anyone everyone thought the Oakland A’s would do, only worse.

These independent, highly skilled athletes who one would think would be above that sort of thing, proceeded to do Atlanta’s equivalent of what no one dares to do with them—Go with the Wind.”

Before you could cue the scoreboard’s music man to roll a tape of “Tara’s Theme” and blend gently into a commercial for mint julep, the Big Red Machine was finally in gear.

Super Cincy fan Tom McNeer, Tech’s athletic ticket manager has a 14-2 home record and 10-5 on the road. Tech wonders how many of them will call back in October.