Mason On Sports

Seeing is believing. Virginia Tech’s baseball team, which some thought had lost too many outstanding players to be a contender this season, not only is a contender but sets new school records nearly every time it runs on the field and gets closer to the post season playoffs with every win in its remarkable string.

The opening game of the twin bill with Morris-Harvey had some nervous moments for the Hokies, especially with the potential tying run at the plate in the final inning before reliever John Power struck the batter out.

The Hokies, who had come off a win in a game in Tennessee the night before, looked a little sluggish in the seventh and the 20-minute break between games was welcome.

Tech came out swinging in the first inning of the second game and proceeded to methodically defeather the Golden Eagles.

It would have taken a major effort for a comeback after being down 7-0 and righthander Bob Fisher was in no mood to tolerate any run-scoring. The 5-9 chunky Roanoker with a high lick before each pitch that would rival any effort by a Kilgore Rangerette, sprinkled six hits where they could do the least harm in the second game. Fireman John Power came on with authority to extinguish M-H in relief of Mike Rhodes in the first game.

Tech is no cocky, blustering team riding for a fall. It is a squad willing to prove itself each time out and possessed of the kind of confidence that comes from knowing it can win.

RED-FACED Gobbler

The Pier 6 brawl that erupted in the second game of Virginia Tech’s doubleheader with West Virginia was unfortunate and regrettable and shouldn’t have happened, but it did. It left unanswered the question of the future of athletic relations between Tech and the Mountaineers. Tech’s Tony Metts was suspended for the rest of the season.

There are tensions that have to be expected in sports and no team in any sport builds a 24-game winning streak without feeling some pressure to keep it going as long as possible. Play was hard and competitive on both sides but there was no difference between being on the brink of disagreement and going over it.

The injury to WVU’s Jerry Mahoney was regrettable but it’s fortunate that the confrontation was brought under control in a short time.

It was an outbreak in a baseball game years ago that led to a cessation of athletic competition between Tech and another state school, a wound long since healed.

It is hoped that West Virginia and Tech can shake hands and shrug this one off since the athletic rivalry between the two has become traditional and includes some proud moments for both.

It was at least encouraging that several West Virginia players lingered after the game to talk with their friends attending Tech and Gobbler center fielder Sandy Hill stopped to renew acquaintances with an old friend, coach Dale Ramsburg of West Virginia.

It was Hill who summed it up: “It shouldn’t have happened.”

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TECH TRACK WOMEN—The Virginia Tech women’s varsity track team. (Front): coach Herbert Tucker. (Row 2): Irene Spieker, Eileen McCarthy, Lucy Hawk, Daphne Palmer, Gail Kelley, Sue Cook, Jana Puffenburger, Selena Daughtery. (Row 3): Terry McIntyre, Lisa Hatch, Bekah Bannister, B. J. Lester, Kim Michael, Kathy Blake, Janet James. (Staff photo by Barbara Krutchkoff)

WOMEN’S TENNIS—The Virginia Tech women’s tennis team plays at Roanoke College today (Tuesday), hoping to bolster its 5-3 record which includes a fourth place in the state tournament at Charlottesville and a second place finish in the Emory and Henry Invitational. (Front row, l-r): Judy Hendricks, P. J. Jones, Cathy Bauer, Kathy Savole, Pilar Cortes, Jackie Davis. (Row 2): Jay Plavidal, Janis McFarland, Sally Bolger, Jill Allen, Tina Wujick, Ellen Dean, Connie Kitts. (Staff photo by Bill Mason)