Dennis Duff’s Hit Helps Trip Vols

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loading the bases, before he finally settled down to retire the side.

“We had visions of it (the streak) going down the drain in the ninth,” admitted Gobbler Coach Bob Humphreys. “We started the season losing (at one point the Techmen were 1-6) because our defense had been giving it away.

“It looked like that was going to happen tonight,” continued Humphreys, “and I’m sure glad we got out of here with a win.”

The Gobblers are not far away from the national winning streak of 34 games posted earlier this season by the University of Texas. The Longhorns opened their year by reeling off that skein.

Selections for NCAA play are to be made Monday.

Should the Gobblers beat Tennessee Temple and be selected to the tourney, they of course would have an opportunity to tie the Longhorns’ mark.

Virginia Tech played in the 1969 Regional tourney when it still was located in Gastonia, N.C. The NCAA play now is held in Starkville, Miss., with six teams competing.

Virginia Tech’s Baseball Skein Fattened To 29

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (Special to Daily Press) — Virginia Tech scored in the 13th inning Wednesday night to defeat the University of Tennessee 5-4 and extend the Gobbler winning streak to 29 games.

Once again, Dennis Duff found himself playing the hero.

After Vols’ reliever Randy Helton had retired 19 of 20 batters, Duff ripped a single up the middle to break the spell.

Duff stole second and continued to third when the catcher’s throw sailed into centerfield.

Steve Dodd’s long sacrifice fly scored Duff, leaving it up to Duke Dickerson to get the Vols in their half of the inning. Dickerson did just that in recording his ninth victory in 20 decisions.

The Gobblers, who have to be considered for the NCAA Regional tournament later this month on the strength of their skein and their 32-7 mark, close the season Monday at Blacksburg against Tennessee Temple.

Virginia Tech nearly didn’t make it to the 13th because of an error in the ninth.

The bobble, coming with two out, gave Tennessee (21-23) life. The hosts took full advantage as Mike Huskisson ripped a double to tie the score.

Tennessee, of the Southeastern Conference, had Dickerson on the ropes.