Tech Wins 2 Awaits NCAA Bid

By JACK BOGACEK

BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech's baseball season ended with a 2-1 loss to Maryland on Saturday. (only the NCAA knows for sure. And the men that gov- ern college athletics aren't saying—at least until 6 p.m. today. )

That's when the Hokies will learn if they were one of the nine at-large spots remaining in the NCAA Tour- nament. And when the NCAA's baseball committee holds its conference call and makes its final decisions on the at-large spots, Tech will have two more wins than it had when it was passed over by the same group last week.

The Hokies finished their regular season with a doubleheader sweep over Howard, taking a 4-2 first-game win and a 7-2 second-game win. Both games were for the NCAA at-large spots with a 5-4 comeback victory in the nightcap. The decision pushed Tech's winning streak to 21 games in a 27-game season.

Now, Tech's season hinges on the NCAA's decision, a thought process is in full swing. The Hokies rallied from a 4-0 deficit in the ninth inning on the hill of Rick Wade and stellar relief pitching by Bethany Dean Powell.

"We don't get a bid, then who deserves one?" questioned Wade, the Hokies' senior third baseman who blasted home runs in his final two-of-three at Tech Park. "I know, people talk about our schedule. But we don't play any weaker schedule than anyone else."

"I left from Miami and when I was down there I watched Miami play all the time. I know who they play. If we play a weak schedule, then what do they play? They eat up all those teams that come down on them every year."

Wade will leave Tech this spring with the career record for stolen bases for an entire season having hoy 310 for Miami in his final two-of-three at Tech Park. "I know, people talk about our schedule. But we don't play any weaker schedule than anyone else."

Wade returned from a trip to the hill behind the right- field fence with Andy Callah, a Tech coed who was retired in a yellow bikini that was made from approximately the same amount of cloth it takes to manufacture an entire large baseball cap.

Wade followed up his "contest judging" with a 3-for-3 game, including the two homers over the outfield fence. The round-trippers doubled his home run output for the season.

The unusual 50-minute break between games for WUV's phenomenally successful "Bill the Giant" contest in which spectators battled against Humphreys cer- tainly didn't bring the best out in the Hokies.

After righthander Jim Puglisi retired the first two Howard batters, the Bisons struck for five straight hits—in- cluding three doubles resembling rockets—and four runs. But Powell came out of the bullpen and fanned nine while permitting just four base hits in 6 1/3 innings. It was his fifth win in as many decisions since coming back from a virus that forced him to miss three conference games.

Tech trailed 6-3 in the nightcap when it landed the bas- es in the bottom of the third with two outs. Up to the plate against Bean, Howard's lefty, Rick Wade took a pitch on the leg, a hit by Jay Skip Dofflemeyer, a .432 hitter. But Dofflemeyer fly a ball 150 feet that fell just inches inside the rightfield foul line for a two-run single. Wade ran home the game's fourth and Dennis Duff's double to take the lead. Then, with two runners on base and the rightfield foul line—sent Wayne Shelton home with the go-ahead run in the same inning.

Virginia Tech 2, Howard 3 First Game

Howard 1-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Virginia Tech 0-0-1-0-0-0-2-0-0-0

3 1B: Howard; Tech; 3 R: Howard; 6 H: Howard, Tech; K: Howard, Tech 4; BB: Howard, Tech 3; SB: Howard; 3; SF: Howard; Skip Dofflemeyer, .432 hitter. But Dofflemeyer fly a ball 150 feet that fell just inches inside the rightfield foul line for a two-run single. Wade ran home the game's fourth and Dennis Duff's double to take the lead. Then, with two runners on base and the rightfield foul line—sent Wayne Shelton home with the go-ahead run in the same inning.