By BILL MASON
Sports Editor
BLACKSBURG—"We did what he had to do to win," summed up Virginia Tech baseball coach Bob Humphreys Sunday after his team battled from behind to win both games of a doubleheader over Howard University, 4-2 and 10-6 to complete Tech's best season ever in the win-loss column, 34-7, a new University record.

The only cloud hanging over the near-perfect season was the lack of a bid to the NCAA baseball tournament—a lack that felt May 9 when the selection panel over the Hokies for the first time. Tech's chances to be among the second group of selections were expected to be answered— one way or the other—by Monday night.

Coach Bob Humphreys scheduled a practice session for the team for Thursday, but obviously it was tentative, based on whether the bid came through.

The wins also set another school record, stretching the consecutive game win streak to 31.

Seniors Rick Wade and Sandy Hill both went out with strong hitting performances. Hill's best effort was a strong triple and Wade blasted two home runs, the second a towering shot off an overhanding wall at Tech Coliseum. Wade said, "Both came on pitches that were fast balls toward the outside. They were really out of the second one."

Humphreys, asked if he was worried when Tech fell behind in each game, replied, "I never doubted we would come back. I knew we could score runs and I hoped the pitching would hold together. The big payoff (Tech's last previous game was played Mar. 4 against Tennessee at Kingsport) helped (first baseman Hamilton) Williams and (Rick Wade) it helped, (catcher Wayne) Sheldon's hitting."

Commenting on the remaining chances for an NCAA bid he said: "I thought we had it a week ago. I just didn't know. To tell the truth, I didn't have any sleep over it. We did what we had to do. Now it's up to the people who pick the teams."

"There is no way I can be any more positive. If we don't (get the at-large bid) I don't know what we have to do to get one."

Tech and Howard were scoreless until the third when each picked up a single run. The Bison went ahead with one in the fourth but Tech's three-run fifth gave them a 4-2 lead that lasted. Winning pitcher Duke Dickerson tossed a four hitter that included a bases-empty home run to outfielder Donald Fassan in the fourth.

The second game started late due to the ceremonies of "WVU Day" sponsored by the campus radio station. It wasn't clear whether the delay had anything to do with it, but pitcher Jim Pujas didn't have his best stuff when the game started. Howard came back strong, erupting for five straight hits in the first inning and four runs after the 2-0 lead. Pujas was selected after pitching two innings of the inning by lefty Dean Powell, who picked up another home run on the home diamond in the third inning. The binary hit series with Howard remaining ahead until Wade's first home run.

Howard pitcher James Gavin and Howard stole second and scored when designated hitter Mike Peimer hit a high fly that was dropped for a single. Earlier, right fielder Howard may have been lost in the sun, belted by Skip Dolfinsky and Duff fell in on key hits, Duff's dropping between three Howard players.

TWO HOME RUNS—Third baseman Rick Wade of Virginia Tech made his final regular season game for the Hokies a memorable one with two home runs Sunday against Howard University. (Staff photos by Bill Mason).

"HIT THE HUMP!"—Coach and former major league pitcher Bob Humphreys put on a pitching exhibition of sorts during the break between games in the doubleheader.