Virginia Tech's proud baseball team, winner of 29 straight games and boasting a 32-7 record with two contests yet on its schedule, is still waiting for a bid to regional playoffs in NCAA championship competition.

If it's any consolation, at least the Gobblers haven't been cooked and left for dead, as happened to their school last week when it was shunned in a bid for Atlantic Coast Conference membership.

The NCAA announced Monday four at-large teams and four sites for regionals play, but the only teams picked from the ACC-Southern Conference territory were ACC titlist Wake Forest, SC champ East Carolina, and independent South Carolina.

Most likely the Gobblers' two remaining games with Howard University, which won't be played until the weekend, have had a bearing on the delay in selection.

Obviously, Tech must win both or be passed over. Even by winning it will probably land in strange territory. The Gobblers' record will have to stand up favorably against those of Middle West teams who still have games to play. Only when that's done will the Techmen learn in what regional tourney they'll be competing.

Those decisions will come May 15 and 13 when at-large teams and sites will be named for the Mideast, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Regionals.

South Carolina (33-9) was named an at-large participant and will host the Atlantic regional May 20-22 at Columbia, S.C. South Alabama (38-9) also was selected for an at-large berth in this one.

Wake Forest (29-11), Atlantic Coast Conference champion, and East Carolina (30-10), Southern Conference winner, have qualified automatically for the Atlantic regional.

Miami of Florida (40-11) was picked at-large and will host the Southern regional May 20-22 at Coral Gables, Fla. Clemson (38-7), runner-up in the ACC, also is an at-large entry in the Southern regional.

Morehead State (Ky.), 27-17, Ohio Valley Conference champion, has qualified automatically for the Southern regional. The champion of the Southeastern Conference, to be determined this weekend, will complete the pairings in the Southern.

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