Virginia Tech Eliminated From Regional By Florida

By BILL MASON
Sports Editor

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—"We don't have any pitching." Virginia Tech baseball coach Bob Humphreys put it bluntly. The coach noted that on another occasion (the first game) the pitching was there and the hitting didn't come through but on Saturday morning Tech put on one of its best-ever hitting shows only to have the pitching collapse as they lost 9-4 to the fired-up University of Florida Gators to be eliminated from the NCAA Mideast Regional baseball tournament in two games.

Humphreys continued, "I've got to get out and recruit about four pitchers."

Tech pitching yielded six walks, all of them costly. Starter Mike Rhodes, a freshman, walked Roger Holt and Frank "Big Mac" McDonald. Designated hitter Dave Adeiny slammed a single to score Holt, another hit scored McDonald and Florida led 2-0 in about the times it takes to tell.

The Hokies came back strong in their half of the second, with left fielder Dennis Duff getting a double off the center field wall. Right fielder Steve Dodd followed with a single.

Designated hitter Mike Preisser singled and Duff scored. First baseman Harold Williams hit a screeching double into the pocket in left field, scoring Dodd and Preisser and putting Tech in front, 3-2.

Two walks later Rhodes was relieved by Tim Puglisi, who had made two previous appearances during the season. Puglisi ran into trouble and was replaced by Harold Berkey, who in turn yielded to John Power but the Gator kept biting.

A defensive play in the sixth inning typified Tech's frustration in the regional.

Both shortstop Skip Dofflemeyer and second baseman Danny Griel went after a bouncing shot. Griel fielded it and tried to throw to first but the ball bounced (Continued On Page 13).