MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—What can you say about a team that in two years goes 0-4 in the NCAA baseball regionals? 
You could say that Virginia Tech needs more good pitchers since that phase of the game failed against Florida.
You could also say that Tech needs more hitters since the lack of runs was the most serious omission against Central Michigan.
You could combine both to find what the Hokies need while noting that a few defensive errors also were costly. The truth might be that the team needs—more than anything else—to win a game in NCAA post-season competition—over anybody and by any means.
Such a win would give the team momentum in the remaining games in such a playoff, provide confidence for the following season and ease the burden of coach Bob Humphreys who was due to hit the recruiting trail soon after his return from the Regionals.
Tech had good pitching but not enough hitting in the first game and slap-bang hitting but no pitching to speak of in the second game.
Rick Wade’s comment made earlier in the season came to mind again. He said the team seldom got excited when it got behind during its long winning streak because they had the feeling that it could come back and win anyway. This could have been the case in the first but not the second game.
The Hokies’ 31-game winning streak was ended in the regional but not wiped off the books. The regular season was a success but Tech wanted nothing more than “W’s” in the regional which they were not to have.
The team has lost for two consecutive years in NCAA play but this time they found that it didn’t hurt as badly as it had hurt last year at Columbia, S. C.
Senior center fielder Sandy Hill said, “You don’t ever get accustomed to losing.” This time Tech gave a strong effort.
Other comments heard as the Tech players boarded the Hotel Leamington elevator (the hotel also served as their dressing room) included, “They can’t say we didn’t hit the ball this time.
Hit it they did in game two, with the same bat-bending gusto shown by Minnesota when it hammered then-slumbering Florida on Friday.
Minneapolis had at least one thing in common with Columbia and that was humidity. South Carolina humidity may slap you without any preliminaries but in Minneapolis it sneaks up on you gradually like a gopher approaching a prize head of cabbage in a garden at midnight.
The Minnesota sports information dubbed this the “Three G” regional since it included the Gophers, Gobblers and Gators along with the Chippewas.