Hokies Whip Keydets 62-51

From Page C-1

"We made them shoot outside."

The game was in doubt until the last 10 minutes. VMI led several times in the first half and trailed by just a point at halftime. Tech's starters were performing with such skill in the first half that DeVoe jerked the entire first team and inserted his second unit.

"I wanted to get them in the game," DeVoe said. "I thought it would be better to get them in early than have to play them in a clutch situation late in the game. I wanted to get them some experience. Actually, I had hoped to play them more than I did."

Tech began pulling away shortly after the half when Stevens and Lieder hit some key buckets. The Tech inside game perked up too. That was a must. The Keydets outrebounded Tech in the first half and VMI was only outrebounded by one in the entire game.

The Hokies, playing a close man-to-man defense, attempted 30 free throws while VMI shot only 12 times from the line.

"We're using a zone and they're playing man-to-man," said Blair. "It's hard to explain the free throws."

Neither team shot well. "We got some good shots," Blair said. "If our guards had shot better, we could have won."

The Keydets, however, appeared vastly improved over last season. "We'll win some games," Blair said.

With Tech facing Auburn, Alabama (on the road), Ohio State and North Carolina in its next four games, this was one the Hokies had to win.

Times Photo by Wayne Deel

Tech Has Steve Chapin of VMI Well Covered On This Play