Early, Late VPI Flurries
Offset W&M Spurt, 72-54

By ED RICHARDS
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WILLIAMSBURG — Virginia Tech's Gobblers galloped to a comfortable lead, stumbled, then got on their offensive high horses again to thrash William and Mary, 72-54, Monday night.

A 14-2 spurt right before halftime and a 21-7 flurry in the last six minutes of the game proved the difference after the battling host Tribe had pulled to four points of the invaders at 51-47.

"We played 16 minutes of excellent basketball in the first half and then got away from what we wanted to do—be careful with the basketball," said Tribe Coach Ed Ashmun afterwards. "Then after we got to within four points in the second half, we went berserk again.

"With our age (youthfulness), we're just not good enough yet to play 40 minutes of consistent basketball against a mature club."

The Gobblers showed their poise when seriously threatened in the last six minutes.

"Our kids proved they could win after they W&M made that big run at us. We just got things going again, worked the ball inside for several easy baskets, and Charlie (Thomas) and Bobby (Stevens) handled their press real well," noted Tech Coach Don DeVoe.

The Gobblers, who rolled to their 20th victory in the last 21 outings with the rival Indians, had to settle for a 21-19 edge after the opening 16 minutes. Then, however, the veteran Blacksburg troops unleashed a polished fast break and started hitting everything to take a commanding 35-21 cushion at intermission.

The Gobblers jumped to the attack again in the opening minutes of the second half. It looked like the game was all in the bag after they grabbed an 18-point bulge with 12:33 to go.

Then everything started going the Indians' way. Mike Arzino leading a furious 20-6 charge with four field goals that left the hosts only four points behind.

That brought the home folks, which represented only about half of a large crowd in excess of 5,000, to their feet and caused DeVoe to call a time out to settle his troops down.

It worked as the Gobblers went on a 10-1 tear which virtually put the game out of reach at 53:31 with a 61-48 bulge.

Then with 3:07 left, the Tribe's hopes were completely doomed when Arzino was tossed out of the game.

See W&M's, Page 16, col 6

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Score: Virginia Tech 72, W&M 54

Virginia Tech W&M

Trinidad 2 11-13 Musser 8 6
Thillens 7 13-12 Coursey 6 6
Grubb 0 12 4 1 4
Frenzel 1 2 4 2 4
Mckee 1 1 6 2 6
Wang 8 10 6 8 6
Thillens 9 12 8 9 8
Green 1 4 5 3 5
Bolman 1 4 2 1 2
Gardner 3 3 5 1 5
Bollinger 1 1 1 1 1
Total 28 16-21 Totals 16 12-18 54

Virginia Tech W&M

Fouled Out: Vail
Team Foul: Virginia Tech 22, W&M 19
Pt. 1300