Virginia Tech Notches
Season Opening Win

By JIM McDONALD
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Before an enthused crowd of 500 fans, Virginia Tech connected on three of its first six shots after a slow start and went on to defeat West Virginia Tech 4-0 in the Gobblers opening soccer game in Blacksburg yesterday.

It was the first time Tech has won an opener.

"Winning the first one gives us a good outlook for the rest of the season," halfback Don Graves said. "It will help prepare us for our tough games which are coming up against Navy and Randolph Macon."

Tech coach Jerry Cheyett echoed Graves' thoughts, commenting after the game, "Winning the opener gives us a special lift. This match gave our formations a chance to settle so we should be a little more stable for the rest of the game."

Scoring for Tech in the first half were Jim Johnston and Chris Burkett on assists from Wayne Chechila, while Dennis Cunningham scored unassisted. Chechila notched the final goal with 0:35 left in the game on a penalty kick.

Cheyett said, "They sort of dominated us at first. But after our initial jitters went away we settled down and played good. When we scored the three goals in a row fast, it broke their backs."

After Tech scored its first three goals the match turned into a defensive battle. West Virginia Tech managed only four shots on goal. Tech goalie Ken Nelson had three saves. The Gobblers shot 38 times and WVT goalie Khosrow Jalili had nine saves. Tech held the edge in corner kicks 12-1.

WVT coach Ken Burrows, an Englishman, after watching his team; record fall to 1-2, said, "We were beaten by more hustle. I'm impressed with Tech. They proved that soccer in the U.S. is as good as anywhere else. We have a lot of experienced people that don't play as a team."

Burkett apparently saw the same way as Burrows commenting, "WVT had a lot of individual skill but they didn't move the ball as a team. We had a real good team effort, and if this is any indication of things to come we'll have a very good season."

In Chechila's eyes the key to the game was the play by the Tech defense. He said, "We got a great performance from the defense. They kept WVT away from our goal and were able to move the ball out of our front line."

Tech's balanced offensive attack and the defensive play of Karl Gretlen and Dave Cramer Earned praise from Cheyett.

Tech's next game is a home contest against Eastern Mennonite Tuesday afternoon.