Ashford's Hot Streak Paces VPI

BLACKSBURG (Special to Daily Press) - A first-half lift from the second team and a hot hand by Marshall Ashford at the beginning of the second half powered Virginia Tech to its second victory, a 98-70 success over Charleston (S.C.) Baptist here Monday night.

The Gobblers struggled through the first eight minutes, leading only 17-12 when the No. 2 unit took over and scored 10 points in a 1:50 span. That spurt accounted for a 54-40 halftime bulge.

In the opening 11:30 of the second half, the victors outscored the Buccaneers 24-8 with Ashford chipping in 10 points on a variety of shots, including a slam-dunk.

"It wasn't artistic, but I'm pleased with the win," said first-year Coach Charlie Moir, who again substituted freely, with each member of the second unit logging at least 13 minutes of action.

Duke Thorpe, the former West Point High star, had another strong effort with game highs of 18 points and 10 rebounds. The 6-foot-5 senior forward converted 8 of his 12 field goal attempts.

Ashford tallied 17 points, joining four teammates in double figures.

The Buccaneers, led by Joe Nix and Robert Moore, almost stayed with the hosts in the battle of the backboards, the Techmen gaining only a 44-41 edge, but they couldn't match the Gobblers' shooting. The victors converted at a 55.3 per cent clip to the Bucs 37.3.

Virginia Tech travels to Morgantown to battle the Mountaineers Wednesday and returns home for a Saturday night tussle with Ohio State.

CHARLESTON BAPTIST (76)
Nix 8-4-4 16, Moore 6-1-2 13, McDougall 2-2-3 6, Howell 1-0-2, Wright 1-1-2 3, Akers 2-2-3 2, Shaw 3-0-0 6, Woods 1-2-3 4, Childers 4-0-0 8, Staley 0-0-0, Wilbourne 2-2-2 6, Rivers 2-0-0 4. Totals 26. 14-18

VIRGINIA TECH (98)
Thorpe 8-2-2 18, Thiememan 5-3-3 13, Wamsley 6-1-1 13, Ashford 8-1-2 17, Bell 0-1-2 1, Foggins 5-2-3 13, Robinson 4-0-0 6, Henson 2-0-2 4, Edwards 2-2-3 7, Scott 2-0-0 4, Byers 0-0-0, Meriweather 0-0-0, Heigeson 0-0-0. Totals 42. 14-21.

Halftime- Virginia Tech 54, Charleston Baptist 40.
Total fouls- Charleston Baptist 16, Virginia Tech 19.
Technical fouls- Nix, Thorpe. A-7,000.