Host Dayton Falls
To VPI By 76-75

DAYTON, Ohio (Special to Daily Press) — Virginia Tech guard Marshall Ashford hit two free throws with 30 seconds left Friday night to ice a 76-75 win over the University of Dayton and put the Gobblers into the finals of the Dayton Invitational Tournament.

Virginia Tech meets Alabama tonight in the championship game. The Crimson Tide defeated Oklahoma State 70-61.

Dayton led most of the game but with 41 seconds left Tech was leading 74-73 when the Flyers' Tony Wells missed a foul shot, Jim Paxton missed a follow-up shot and Ashford was fouled.

Dayton scored after Ashford's free throws to whittle the margin to one point. It was the first loss for the Flyers in six games.

Virginia Tech gained its first lead with 2:35 remaining when West Point's Duke Thorpe converted on a three-point play making the score 70-69. After that, Paxton sandwiched four points around Ron Bell's two free throws before Thorpe's layup put VPI in the lead for good.

Paxton led all scorers with 24 points, hitting 11-of-15 shots from the floor. Tech, now 4-2, converted on 22-of-23 free throws. The Gobblers had five players score in double figures.

Lightning-quick Alabama shook off a slow-motion first half for its victory.

Coach C. M. Newton's undefeated defending SEC champions used the inside game of rugged Reggie King and the all-court savvy of veteran T.R. Dunn to dispose of the Cowboys.

King scored 20 for Alabama, Rickie Brown, 12, and Dunn, 12.

VIRGINIA TECH (76)
Thorpe 5 5-5 15, Thieman 6 2-2 14, Wansley 5 4-4 14, Bell 4 4-4 12, Ashford 2 6-6 10, Robinson 0 0-0 0, Edwards 3 1-1 7, Scott 0 0-0 0, Henson 1 0-0 2, Foggins 1 0-0 2. Totals 27 22-23 76.

DAYTON (75)
Giddings 6 3-5 15, Paxson 11 2-2 24, Wells 6 4-8 16, Zimmerman 6 2-2 14, Harris 0 2-2 2, Brannen 0 0-0 0, Siglins 2 0-0 4, Ross 0 0-0 0, Arzeno 0 0-0 0, Pohiman 0 0-0 0. Totals 31 13-19 75.

Virginia Tech.................................................................. 26 48-76
Dayton.......................................................................... 31 44-75