Hokies Lose Composure to ‘Great Team’

By The Associated Press

Coach Charlie Moir had a ready explanation for Virginia Tech’s basketball defeat at the hands of seventh-ranked Alabama in the championship game of the Dayton Invitational tournament.

“We lost our composure. We lost to a great team,” Moir said after the Gobblers fell to 4-3 in a 108-78 rout Saturday night at the hands of the Crimson Tide.

Virginia Commonwealth’s surprising Rams (4-3) were the only winners in the state University Division set. The Rams turned back Georgia Southern, 70-65.

Joining Tech in defeat were Madison’s Dukes (3-4) who fell to Baltimore U. 60-58, and Old Dominion’s Monarchs, who dropped a 96-94 double overtime exhibition outing against Athletes in Action.

Randolph-Macon’s Yellow Jackets ran their record to 5-1 with a 76-68 instate small college victory over Roanoke’s Maroons, still winless in six starts. Hampton Institute’s Pirates (3-4) turned back Federal City, 89-86.

IN THE SOUTHERN Conference, The

Citadel’s Bulldogs — almost universal choices to finish in the basement — gave an indication they may be a force to be reckoned with before the regular season ends.

The Bulldogs rallied in the second half for a 70-62 victory over East Carolina that pushed the Pirates into the cellar, though both teams now have 4-3 over-all records. The Citadel is 1-1 in the conference, the Pirates 0-2.

It was a bad night for SC title-eligible teams who went against outside foes, although Appalachian State’s Mountaineers (5-3) gave 14th-ranked Maryland a battle before going down, 76-74.

Furman’s Paladins (2-3) were edged by South Carolina, 77-71, and Davidson’s Wildcats (1-6) saw their losing streak reach six in an 89-61 bombing by Brigham Young.

Rickey Brown scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in Alabama’s romp over Virginia Tech. Kent Looney had 17 points and Reginald King 16 for the Crimson Tide. Duke Thorpe had 24, including 14 of 17 at the foul line, and Ernest Wansley 17 for the Hokies.

TWO FREE THROWS by Ronald Smith with one second left gave Baltimore its victory over Madison. The Bees, who have won seven in a row, trailed by 15 points at one stage in the first half.

Jeryl Henderson gave VCU an eight-point lead with 54 seconds left after the Rams had rallied from a seven-point deficit early in the second half. Henderson had 30 points and Tim Binns 13 for the Rams.

Kevin Wood led a second-half rally that lifted Randolph-Macon past Roanoke. Wood had 16 points to lead four Jackets in double figures. Rick Weber had 18 and Scott Gregory 16 for the Maroons.

A tip-in with 11 seconds left by Jack Duffin gave Hampton its victory after the Pirates squandered a nine-point lead. Marvin Payne had 25 points for Hampton and Duffin added 20.

Trailing, 48-46, with 10:43 left, The Citadel ran off 10 straight points in the next five minutes, with reserve forward Dale French scoring six, to move in front, 56-48.

When East Carolina pulled to within four points with 1:30 left, French hit two free throws and Rick Swing got loose under the basket for a field goal that put it out of reach.