Virginia Tech Finds Tide Too Strong
Back Home Tonight

By ED RICHARDS
Daily Press Sports Writer
Alabama's Crimson Tide basketball team obviously hasn't lost much might despite the graduation of All-American center Leon Douglas.

Virginia Tech's Gobblers certainly wouldn't argue about that after going down to their worst defeat, 108-78, in five years in the championship game of the Dayton Invitational.

The victory hiked the Alabamians' record to 6-0 and may bolster their No. 7 national ranking.

Alabama appears to be a more balanced team without Douglas and they maybe as quick as anyone around.

The Southeastern Conference victors displayed that when they went to a full-court press that turned things around for them after trailing by seven points in the first half.

The 108 points was the most points surrendered by a Tech team in over 200 games. The Gobblers hadn't yielded that many points since losing to the University of Houston 120-79 in the next to last game of the 1967-68 season.

The Techmen, now 4-3, hope to erase the memories of the Alabama setback tonight when they host Northern Illinois.

The invaders are 2-4, but are potentially dangerous. All of their losses have come on the road, the latest a 61-59 verdict to Chicago Loyola.

The Huskies have played only once at home, drubbing Wisconsin 81-57. In other road games, they knocked off Centenary 72-68 and lost to New Orleans 72-67, Illinois State 78-76 and Kansas State 79-58.

In other results involving the State's major colleges, Virginia Commonwealth whipped Georgia Southern 70-65 and Athletes in Action edged Old Dominion 96-94 in two overtimes.

On the Southern Conference front, The Citadel whipped East Carolina 70-62, Appalachian State flirted with a stunning upset before bowing to Maryland 76-74, Furman put up a stubborn fight before losing to South Carolina 77-71 and Bringham Young clobbered Davidson 89-61.

William and Mary, idle since losing to Appalachian Dec. 11, returns to action Wednesday in the first game of its West Coast tour. The Indians take on California-Santa Barbara for openers, then play UCLA Thursday.

The victory for VCU gave the Rams a 4-3 record.

"A lot of people didn't think we'd have four wins by Christmas," noted VCU Coach Dana Kirk.

This Week's Schedule

Monday — Northern Illinois at Virginia Tech; Washington & Lee at Pratt; Randolph-Macon at Shepherd; Hampton Institute in Shaw Classic; Bowling Green at Marshall; Bringham Young at North Carolina; North Carolina State at Michigan State.

Tuesday — East Tennessee at Richmond; Washington & Lee at C. W. Post; Hampton Institute in Shaw Classic; Davidson at Ohio State; Fairleigh-Dickinson at Wake Forest.

Wednesday — William & Mary at California-Santa Barbara; Roanoke at Baltimore U.; Hampton Institute in Shaw Classic; Tennessee-Chattanooga at Louisville; Bucknell at Maryland; North Carolina State vs. Oregon State at Portland, Ore.

Thursday — William & Mary at UCLA; Virginia State at Rutgers-Camden.

Friday and Saturday — No games scheduled.