By DAVE SCARANGELLA
Sports Writer

Although by no means a basketball power, Farleigh Dickinson presented Virginia Tech with an even easier time than expected Saturday night in Cassell Coliseum as the Hokies emerged with a 98-56 rout of the Knights.

"It was a lot easier game than I thought it would be," said Tech coach Charlie Moir. "We needed a game like this."

Easy, it turned out as Tech recorded its tenth win of the year against six losses before a sparse crowd of 6,000. Twelve Tech players saw action, with ten scoring, four in double figures. Farleigh Dickinson stayed close to Tech for the first few minutes of play, taking advantage of some sloppy Hokie board work. Redonia (Red) Duck and Jay Jorgenson got loose for easy Knight layups as each team traded baskets the first six minutes of play.

But a 14-14 tie was the closest the Knights were to get the rest of the evening. Moments later, with Tech leading 23-18, Farleigh Dickinson lost its leading scorer and team leader Jorgenson to a knee injury. Jorgenson suffered a ligament tear to his right knee from a quick cut under the basket.

Tech then made some defensive adjustments, switching from the zone press it had started the game with to a standard man-to-man. The result was a number of breakaway layups and a 41-30 Tech halftime lead.

"We were fortunate in the first half to have just blocked two or three seemingly unassisted layups. We’re going to have to go back to fundamentals and be more hard nosed and aggressive."

Ashford, a 6-2 guard, took advantage of the Knights’ zone defense hitting on long jumpers, to pace the Hokies in the first half. The zone was a surprise to Moir. "They rarely play a zone defense. Coach LoBalbo is a strict man-to-man coach."

The second half was all Tech as a mad, swarming Hokie defense continually resulted in Gobbler breakaways. The Knights scored only four points in the first six minutes of the second half as Tech raced to a 55-34 lead.

From that point on the game became little more than a scrimmage. Guard Ron Bell led the Hokie attack with 21 points. "Ron got a lot better penetration and used a little better judgement than he did against Oral Roberts," said Moir.

Meanwhile, losing coach Al LoBalbo was not pleased with the contest. "I just got my best guard (Howard Wilson) and my best player (Jorgenson) hurt, and I just hope we can get out of here alive," said LoBalbo. "Moir did what he had to do for his team and he was successful."

Moir thought his use of many players could help the Hokies in the future. "We played a lot better earlier in the season when we were able to substitute freely. It helps the team be confident and is good for morale."

Ashford thought the game might get the Hokies back on the winning track. "We’re beginning to get our confidence back after tonight," said the guard. "I hope it will help straighten things out.

"I thought we played ragged at times and well at times," said Moir in summing up his team’s performance. "We just played light and conservative which comes from losing a few ball games. We weren’t loose and relaxed like I would have liked. We needed a game like this."

"We tend to relax on