VMI Earns Bye, Cops 22nd Win; VPI Rolls

Daily Press Dispatches
Charlie Moir “really needed that” Monday night. Charlie Schmaus had reason to be ecstatic but wasn’t. Dana Kirk simply felt emotionally whipped.

While Moir’s Virginia Tech Gobblers raced to a near-record 122-70 whipping over Division II entry Birmingham Southern, Virginia Military Institute treated Coach Schmaus to an 83-68 conquest of visiting Davidson.

The Keydets’ triumph was their 21st in succession for a State record, their 22nd victory — a school one-season record — in 23 starts, and earned them a bye in the opening round (Feb. 26) of the Southern Conference Tournament at three campus sites. The semifinals and championship finals will be staged in Roanoke Coliseum March 1-2.

On the other side of the ledger, the plucky Virginia Commonwealth Rams fell 78-76 to South Alabama in Mobile. The loss evened the record of first-year Coach Kirk’s crew to 10-10, while South Alabama is 15-7.

Playing before another disappointing Cassell Coliseum crowd — this one 4,500 — Tech broke away with 32 points in the first 10 minutes and then saw its reserves pump in 26 in the next 10 minutes to give the host Gobblers a 58-32 halftime advantage.

While improving their record to 16-7, the usually slow-starting Gobblers never let up. Duke Thorpe of West Point led the barrage with 19 points and 11 rebounds as six Gobblers scored in double figures and four others had eight or more.

The last time Tech scored that many points was in 1973 when it outlasted William and Mary 127-93. The only other margin recorded in Tech annals by a fatter margin came in 1956 when it crushed The Citadel 103-47.

Moir’s starters scored 31 points in the first 9:20 of the second half and then watched the reserves, led by Sam Foggin (15 points and seven rebounds) and Les Henson (11 points) mop up.

With Davidson’s John Gerdy hitting on 11 of 19 field goal tries for 23 points in the first half, Davidson only trailed 38-34 at intermission.

Gerdy wound up with 35 points and 11 rebounds, but dropped in only 1 of 9 shots in the last 11 minutes when Will Bynum guarded him.

Bynum and Ron Carter — 26 points and 8 rebounds — led a 13-6 surge that opened the halftime spread and paved the way to the triumph which secured no worse than a tie for first in the SC.

Furman could tie VMI in the standings, but the Keydets have already beaten the Paladins the one time the two teams met this season.

“Davidson was very patient on offense. They took a lot of time looking for their shot and that bothered us a little. That type of thing makes these players play sluggish.”

“I don’t like that, but I think Davidson dictated that. I had to play more man-to-man and pressure some so that we could continue to run,” Schmaus said.

He called Gerdy “probably the greatest shooter around. He’s a great standing shooter. We did feel we could hold him better than we did, but Bynum wasn’t about to guard him for 40 minutes.”

Bynum wound up with 13 points and 4 rebounds; Dave Montgomery had 17 and 10.

DAVIDSON (69)
Gerdy 16-3-3-35, Lively 3-1-2-7, Owens 4-0-0-8, Hickert 6-2-2-14, Reigel 1-0-0-2, Sumwalt 0-0-0-0, Coffey 0-0-0-0, Bowker 1-0-0-2. Totals 31 6-9-66.

VIRGINIA MILITARY (63)
Bynum 5-3-4-13, Carter 10-6-8-26, Montgomery 5-7-10, Krovic 9-0-0-18, Lombard 2-3-4-7, Wagnor 0-0-0-0, Bolevich 0-0-0, Salmond 1-0-2, Kelley 0-0-0, Sliomski 0-0-0. Totals 32 19-26-83.


BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN (79)
Fussell 6-1-1-13, Bailey 1-2-2-4, Daniels 6-0-0-12, Webb 3-0-1-6, McClellan 9-3-5-21, McIntosh 0-4-4-4, Kelley 1-2-2, Beckman 0-2-2, Moore 1-24-4, Mininni 0-0-0, McClellan 0-0-0. Totals 27 16-21.

VIRGINIA TECH (122)
Thorpe 9-1-19, Thieneman 2-4-4, Wansley 4-4-4, 12, Ashford 5-2-12, Bell 2-2-4, Henson 5-11-4, Foggia 6-3-15, Edwards 4-4-4, Scott 2-5-9, Robinson 3-3-4, Byers 0-0-0, Helgeson 0-1-2, Meriwether 2-0-0. Totals 48 26-34.