Hokies Win
83-79 Over
Georgetown

By Bill Mason
Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech's free throw shooting, unimpressive in a ragged first half, came through in the closing minutes to give the Hokies a hard-won 83-79 win Wednesday night over the Hoyas of Georgetown in a scrambling, physical NIT regional game.

Tech moves on to next Monday's NIT round in New York's Madison Square Garden against the winner of tonight's NIT regional between Alabama and Memphis State. Monday night's starting time wasn't known immediately after Wednesday night's win.

The Hokies lack of sufficient practice time was evident by the free throw shooting and turnovers and their inability to build much of a lead in the first half.

Georgetown, one of the taller teams Tech has played against this year, threw up a tight, collapsing zone that took the inside game away from the Hokies during the first half and rebounded aggressively.

Outside shooting by guard Ron Bell kept Tech competitive in the first half, along with a few bombs by Marshall Ashford.

The Hoyas tied it up 23-23 at 8:55 after a steal from sub guard 'Chris' Scott and a layup. Bell countered with two quick buckets to give Tech back the lead.

Last minute turnovers gave Georgetown the chance and it went ahead at the break, 40-37.

Coach Charlie Moir said that he discussed at halftime how the team must get the ball inside more. The discussion, as the game unfolded, proved to be fruitful.

Tech came out more aggressive in every phase of the game. Senior center Ernest Wansley penetrated to score the Hokies' first four points of the half and Bell quickly added four more. Junior Derrick Jackson and sophomore Steve Martin kept popping away on offense, carrying the Hoyas as they did all night.

Ashford got hot from outside, eventually racking up 16 points to add to his first half total of eight.

Tech had managed a lead of only three, 53-50 when Georgetown called time out with 13 minutes left.

The Hokies then put on their best scoring spurge with free throws by Phil Thieneman and Wansley and baskets by Duke Thorpe, Les Henson, Sam Foggin and Ashford (two) as Tech racked up an impressive 69-61 lead with seven minutes left.

The Hoyas roared back with a few key steals and a long string of points by Jackson, who matched baskets with Ashford down the stretch.

Two bombs by Ashford and two free throws gave (Continued on page 19).