Staff Writer

It's been a long time since Virginia Tech swimmers have beaten Virginia Commonwealth University. But this past Saturday, the Hokie women moved a step closer to whipping the VCU swimmers while the Tech men edged VCU for the first time in four years.

Tech women swimmers broke two school records in relay competition at Randolph Macon College in Lynchburg as VCU edged the Gobblers 59-34 in the eight school clash.

Karen Poulson, Debbie Bond, Gwen Braaten and Kathy Berry swam the 400-meter freestyle in 4:01.9 to eclipse the 4:07.8 mark set last season. In the 400-meter medley, Bekah Bannister, Andi Rupert and Robin Geiger joined Poulson to streak the distance in 4:29.8 and break another year-old record — 4:30.4.

The Tech women took three first places out of nine events. Bannister, Poulson, Berry and Geiger combined for honors in the 200-meter freestyle and 200 butterfly relay. Rupert replaced Berry in the 200 medley as the Hokies notched their final top finish.

While the Tech women were smashing school records, the Hokie men swimmers were competing against four other major colleges at Morris Harvey College in Charleston, W.Va.

Tech finished in fourth place with 56 points, six markers ahead of VCU. West Virginia took first with 110 points while Western and Eastern Kentucky landed second and third.

Tech scored second place finishes in the 400-meter medley relay and in the 400 freestyle relay. Matt Robins, Bill Dinton, Lance Terteney and Robbie Hager clocked the medley in 3:45. Bill Vinton and Kurt Geiger joined Terteney and Hager in the freestyle competition for a 3:21.5 finish.

"I thought they did a good job," said Tech Coach Billy Beecher who spent Saturday with the men. "I know we're stronger than we've been in the past, but I don't know if the other teams we swim against are any stronger."

The men's first dual meet of the season is scheduled for Jan. 8 at Washington and Lee in Lexington. The women return to action Jan. 22 in their home pool when Randolph Macon comes to Blacksburg for a dual meet.