Wrestlers Tourney

By Nelson Kane

On January 29, the Virginia Tech wrestling team competed in the annual State Tournament in Charlottesville, involving 14 schools and 196 wrestlers. Though the Gobblers had no first-place finishers, they did place eight wrestlers, as did the University of Virginia, and finished only behind William and Mary (11) in this category.

Individuals placing for the Hokies were: Lavem Hovey (118) 3rd, Steve Brown (134) second, Tom Chamberlain (134) 4th, Dave Gitlin (142) 3rd, Bob Reisch (167) 2nd, Don Whyte (177) 2nd, Mark Miller (190) 4th, and Billy Pfeffer (Heavyweight), 2nd.

“Hovey and Reisch both did good jobs,” commented head coach Jerry Cheynet. “Reisch showed more aggressiveness than he has all season.”

Now at the .500 mark (4-4) after downing Colgate on January 26, Tech returns to action this Tuesday, hosting VMI at 7:30. Last season, Tech edged the Keydets in an exciting match, 22-21.

Steve Brown Sets Example For Hokie Wrestling Team

By Nelson Kane

As the only senior on this year’s Virginia Tech wrestling squad, tri-captain Steve Brown says he feels the added pressure of being picked as a captain, but he has come through for the Gobblers all season.

His style of fiercely competitive wrestling has set an example for the young wrestlers to follow, and head coach Jerry Cheynet has nothing but praise for Brown. “Steve has a lot of heart and pride,” he says, “and he’s a super tough competitor.”

After four years of high school wrestling in Vienna, Virginia, Brown decided to come to Tech because he thought it was a “nice school,” though he had no college scholarship offers. Since then, Brown has compiled records of 18-4, 18-5, and 9-1-1 in his three seasons of varsity wrestling for Virginia Tech.

However, the most impressive aspect of his record is his 26 pins so far in his career, a Tech record.

“His strongest asset is on the mat,” says Cheynet. “Once he gets his man down, he works for a guillotine, and he can pin the best of wrestlers.”

Brown, Tech’s Outstanding Wrestler of the Year as a sophomore, picks his state championship last year in the 126-pound class as the high point of his career. Though coaching is not in his plans after graduation, he says he wouldn’t mind trying it if the opportunity arises.

Brown is optimistic when asked about this season’s team. “Coach Cheynet is a fantastic recruiter and coach, and our team has great potential, with guys like Daryl Kanach, Mark Miller, Steve Fant, Don Whyte, and Lavem Hovey.”