Bob Tittebaum

Coffey, Lawrence Praise Game

Maybe the men wearing the biggest smiles af- ter the Western Illinois game were Virginia Tech coach Charlie Coffey and Virginia's Don Law- rence.

Both see the game, the coaches cajole and all- star basketball contest as being a big help to high school basketball. The game, the old files of the Tech, say.

"I've been going to all-star games for 15 years," said the Tech coach, "and this one is the most constructive game I've seen."

"It's obvious the coaches did a good job and the players responded. This game is going to help foot- ball recruiting. It gives us a chance for a long time because it creates an additional thrust for the high school kids and generates people's interest to help the colleges."

Coffey watched an 17 future Tech players par- ticipating in the game. The Tech team included the West's 17-15 in a thriller played before an estimated 18,000 fans.

"Everyone has an all-star game so why shouldn't we?" Coffey asked. "I wanted it and ex- pressed my opinion."

Coffey invited part of the proceedings down to Tech when he volunteered to host the players for practice. Because it was the practices he should be in Roanoke, the offer was refused. However, when it rained last week, Tech's indoor facilities were used. Coffey says he and Tech stand ready to help at all times.

Lawrence sees all-star games helping Virginia high school athletics because of the pride it instills in the players. Lawrence said the present last night and saw the game agree.

"I played in a similar game," recalled Law- rence, "and it was also a professional college players in col- lege and pro football. A game like this unites all the coaches and is a good thing for all."

No matter what's said in the next few weeks, no one could ask for two better games than Virginia's this year. '76 was the year the game drew nearly 18,000 fans. With this year's start there is no telling what we won't see in the future and who'll come to this state.

As one fan was heard to say before leaving Victory Stadium last night, "That was the best thing that ever happened to high school athletics in this state."

Powers Questions Officializing

One man was unhappy and he was East coach Bill Powers. Powers was being disappointed with the loss. Powers was upset with the officials—all from the Roanoke Valley.

"I think some of the officials missed some of the calls—theirs and some others," said an over- excited Powers. "I wish I didn't have to stand there, but they were judgment calls."

The call that upset Powers the most helped set the West up for the big win before the half. Jimmy Williams of John Yeats was called for passing, not a foul, by Tech's Adams on the goal line when the pass had been obviously overthrown. The ball from West's Green at the East five and Halifax's Don Testerman scored two plays later.

"I didn't think the ball was in the air," said Powers. "I have to find out some interpretations before I play the coaches (Freeman) this fall."

Williams didn't feel he interfered with Adams. "That's what they said it was," said Williams, "but never let him. I was backing up and he ran me into the ball. I turned around and saw the ball leave the quarte- rback's hand."

Powers did feel that the game was handled well. "The spectators couldn't have asked for a better game. I'm on the board (coaches associ- ation) and I didn't think the games come back to Roanoke next year."

Powers added he would make a few recommenda- tions right away to get a split official with some from the Eastern part of Virginia.

Busted Play Helped East

The West went ahead on the fourth quarter buzzer with a shovel pass from Tech Don Crowe of Douglas Freeman who carried it over from the one. Then Eastern push for the end zone was stopped at the two for two points and 13:14 left with 4-2 left.

"That two-point conversion was a busted play," said Powers. "We had a man out and he was a fast kid and my primary receiver was the split end. But Deflora came wide open."

Courountain said a four-yard plunge by Alex Hill of Hampton just before the touchdown was also a half bust. "I could have scored on a pass for two points at the end of the half and it was terrible," remarked the East quarterback.

As for the tie, Powers said he never considered doing anything but two points. "Had it been a regular season game I might have gone for the tie but what's a tie in an all-star game?" he asked.

It's statements like this that made last night's game a success.