Tech Seeks Consistent Scoring

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Offensive consistency. These are two key words and the best reason why Virginia Tech has a 4-4 record while settling for second prize here last night in the Charlotte Invitational Tournament. The Gobblers, 83-73 losers to Davidson in the finals here last night, don’t seem to have a steady influence on offense.

Forward Allen Bristow has been the closest thing to a form player for the Hokies. But he hit only 13 points in the finals here and 41 for the two days which was below his average. Last night it was a case of Davidson’s John Pecora putting a tight defensive job on the Hokie star.

After Bristow it’s worse. Charlie Lipscomb has had a pair of two-point games this season, but last night came up with 24. Bill McNeer has ranged from two to 13, Darvin Pippin from two to 22, Randy Minix from zero to 18, Craig Linder from two to 13, Tom Trice from zero to 17 and Ed Frazier from zero to nine.

It means Tech can’t count on any one player having a good night. Pippin, after hitting 22 points in the first game against Rutgers, got only two last night, for example.

“Usually,” said Tech assistant Sonny Smith who has some additional ideas about the Gobblers’ inconsistency, “when a few guys go cold, one man keeps the team going.

“But all five go cold and for three or four minutes at a stretch we might never make a basket. Our timing is off offensively because we haven’t been handling the defensive pressure as well as we did early. And we also haven’t controlled the tempo of the game.

“Then we wanted to play fast, we haven’t been able to. We’re not putting the defensive and offensive games together for any long period of time. When we play good defense, we don’t do good on offense.”

Overall, the Hokies do a good job defensively. Rebounding has been exceptional. Tech won the battle of the boards again last night (44-34).

The Gobblers also beat Davidson’s press, then succumbed to the Wildcats’ half-court defense. It kept the offense off balance.