Large Crowds Help ‘Psych’ VPI Stalwart; SC In Knots

By Dwayne Hartnett
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Charlie Lipscomb has this thing about playing before crowds.

“I just seem to get psyched up when there’s a lot of people around,” said the 6-foot-6 senior center, who played a big role in Virginia Tech’s 70-60 victory over Wake Forest Saturday night.

Lipscomb played one of his best games of the season against the Deacons, scoring 15 points and grabbing 15 rebounds, to the delight of the 7,200 fans that braved near-zero weather to watch the Tech Coliseum battle.

“When we play at home, I tend to relax and forget everything except the game,” says Lipscomb. “I felt pretty good and set my mind on the defense. The new defensive style isn’t so hard, but you have to work at it.”

Lipscomb’s defensive play and the 29 point shooting of All-American candidate Allan Bristow were easily the bright spots in the Gobbler triumph, the lone one posted by Big Five teams over the weekend.

In other action involving State and Southern Conference units, Virginia Military Institute fell to The Citadel, 68-63, in overtime; Richmond was bombed by Davidson, 112-89; East Carolina upset Furman, 82-73; Appalachian State lost to Western Carolina, 80-73, in overtime; and Virginia’s 12-game victory streak was ended by third-ranked North Carolina, 85-79. (See related story this section).

Although happy with the victory over Wake Forest, which ended the Tech record at 6-5 (3-0 at home), new Coach Don DeVoe is painfully aware the Gobblers aren’t a solid team just yet.

That was apparent when the Gobblers, up by as much as 22 with five minutes left, saw their lead dwindle to nine before establishing the final 10-point spread.

“If it would have gone a few minutes longer we could have lost it,” DeVoe said. “We just can’t handle the full-court pressure.”

While Tech had trouble with the press, VMI fell victim to The Citadel’s foul shooting and deliberate play, the former deciding the outcome in overtime after play ended in a 58-58 deadlock in regulation play.

“We wanted to dictate the tempo,” said Keydet Coach Mike Schuler. “We wanted to run. But The Citadel is well-disciplined and we couldn’t do what we wanted.”

Oscar Scott was the top scorer for the Bulldogs, who moved into a tie for fourth in SC standings along with idle William and Mary, hitting 21 points, including 7 of 9 from the free throw line.

Jerry Renfro was the Keydet leader with 13 points, followed by Steve Wolf with 11 and David Lester with 10.

East Carolina, getting 23 See 39, Page 17, Col. 9