McNeer Bours in 35 Leads Tech Victory

By BILL CATE
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BLACKSBURG — Georgia Southern coach J. D. Rowe compiled a simple game plan: stop Allan Bristow, let Bill McNeer, a 36.7 shooter, run loose.

The trouble, however, was that Southern couldn't stop Bristow and McNeer ran wild, scoring a career high of 35 points, as Virginia Tech won its second straight, defeating Georgia Southern 75-70 Monday night.

As evidenced by the final score, it was no easy victory for Tech. Fact is, Don DeVoe's Hokies had a love affair with good fortune throughout the game. Georgia Southern played well enough to win.

We wanted to stop Bristow," said Rowe. "He got 32 points against us last year. So we let McNeer alone. We should have learned something when McNeer scored 18 in the first half. But we didn't. We played him the same way the second half,"

McNeer called his performance "wonderful."

"I was in the right place at the right time," he said.

The Hokies did limit Bristow to seven points in the first half and he didn't score to the first 12 minutes. But the Tech junior had a good second half and finished with 32 points.

The contest was tied with 58 seconds left when Bristow hit the front side of a one-and-one. Then four seconds later, Craig Lieder hit a free throw to put Tech ahead by one, 72-71.

Then Georgia Southern was called on the five-second rule, the second time that had happened within 50 seconds, and Tech got the tip.

McNeer was fouled and converted both shots to give the Hokies an 80-77 lead with only eight seconds to go and the rest was just academic.

The Eagles suffered greatly when their best player, sophmore guard Johnny Mills, got three fouls in the first three minutes and had to sit out 10 minutes of the first half. As it was, Mills, who scored 12 points, giving some indication of what would have happened had he played the entire game.

Tech had an eight-point lead in the first half, but Southern quickly closed the gap and made a serious contest of it the rest of the way.

"There was a fine team we played," said DeVoe with a sly grin, indicating that nobody would believe him. "We had to do a good job on defense to win. Mills and (Richard) Wallace are fine players. We did pretty well with Wallace, but we couldn't handle Mills. We were just lucky he didn't play much in the first half."

DeVoe didn't get much help from Darwin Pippin, usually a good shooter, who only hit three of 14 shots from the field.

"I've never seen Darwin go cold," DeVoe said, "and I'll bet he'll never be that cold again."

Tech may consider itself fortunate that Georgia Southern didn't apply any full court pressure. It was the first time this season that Tech hadn't been pressed. "Apparently," said DeVoe, "they hadn't scouted us much."

DeVoe said the obvious, that McNeer had a good game. But the Tech coach was as pleased with McNeer's defense as he was with the 35 points.

"He gave us a great defensive effort," DeVoe said. "I had to regard him a tough man."

"I was just loose," McNeer said. "I've been during most of the other games, but I left it today."

College Scores

State

Virginia Tech 85, Georgia Southern 74

ACC

North Carolina State 135, Clemson 46

South Carolina 63, St. Bonaventure 39

Appalachian State 63, K.C. Atlantic 62

National

Temple 86, DePaul 46

Lincoln Memorial 64, Tusculum 61

Georgia St. Kentucky 73

Kites 80, Vandy 73

Wisconsin 74, Alabama State 77

Iowa State 69, Central Michigan 67

Ball State 76; Kent State 69

St. Peter's 80, Boston College 73

...Drives Past Ron Arnold (23) for 2 of Career High 35 Points

Tuesday, January 18, 1972

NCAA Football

Georgia Tech 36, Notre Dame 6

Auburn 73, Notre Dame 63

Virginia 76, Kentucky 73

Temple 88, Pittsburgh 72

Texas Southern 82, Southern U. 73

Auburn 73, Arkansas 71

Wisconsin 76, Texas St. 63

Hawaii 71, Southern Miss. 64

Tennessee 43, Florida 38

Lsu 74, Yale 68

Oklahoma City 82, Holy Cross 16

Drake 74, Wisconsin 69

Knoxville 64, Kansas State 63, 3 OTs

Journal Southern St., Central Michigan 75

Marquette 82, Purdue 73

Mississippi 73, Connecticut 70

E. New Mexico 89, West Texas 48