Randy Minix Hero
In 105-101 Victory

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MORGANTOWN, W.Va.—Behind except when it counted, Virginia Tech got four crucial points from guard Randy Minix in the third overtime here Wednesday night as the Hokies edged West Virginia, 105-101, in a game which may take three weeks to tell about.

Hokie Coach Don DeVoe's Hokies were down by five points in the third overtime, but it obviously didn't make any difference as Minix hit a driving bucket with 1:12 left to tie it and two free throws with 36 seconds remaining to give Tech what eventually became its eighth victory.

Trailing 101-86, and with the big artillery, Allan Bogowon on the bench with five fouls, Tech began making its move. The Hokies hit a free throw missed another, but Minix never got the rebound and the ball back in the hoop to move the Hokies down by two.

Their Minix did the rest.

"It was a great victory for us," said DeVoe. "They showed a lot of pride coming back from five down."

Although West Virginia's WVU Mountaineers scored 47 points, he reasoned high, Minix's defensive game back on the Mountaineers must have been the difference.

Minix took over on Robinson midway the second half and by that time the Mountaineers had 32 points. He scored just nine more.

"Minix was a great job on him," DeVoe said. "That was the turning point. It equaled both ends of the floor. We had won 11 of the 14 games we had both teams. We had to find someone who could stop him."

Accuracy from the foul line was also a significant factor. The Hokies hit 21 of 26 free throws with West Virginia connected on only 12 of 23. Out to the quick by the Mountaineers and trimmed the game, the Mountaineers were forced to have enough to pull the victory. They had not laid over Tech during the regular-season game, but Tech continued to come back—facing the offense, probably the best it has all season.

"We gave up too many easy points in the first half," said Bobo, "but we showed some offense in the second half."

West Virginia Coach Homer Moros, visibly disappointed, thought his team had won more than once.

"What can I say?" Moros asked. "We got a great effort. We had the opportunity to win many times, but inexcusable on the part of our younger team. Experienced players cost us dearly and it seemed Tech was able to take advantage of almost everyone of them.

"As I've often said, our tragic losses of personnel we must have good performance from every one of our men, particularly when we go to the bench.

"We missed our free throws at crucial situations and we blew two possible three-point plays and missed many one-on-ones which would have put the game away. But with five sophomores on the bench (a lot of the time), mistakes are expected.

The best play of the game was Minix's drive and basket with 1:12 to go to make it 101-99. The Hokies were never scored again until Randy Minix Defended Buddy Martin