Minix Claims Tech Playing Its Best

By BOB MCELLELAND
World-News Sports Editor

Randy Minix said he would be glad to make some concessions.

He would be glad to give up his 19 points and he wouldn't mind having to play 55 minutes—IF Virginia Tech could whip the physically tough Clemson Tigers tonight in the Tech Coliseum.

Minix scored a college career high of 19 points last month against the Tigers at Clemson but the Gobbler's came home on the short end of a 85-73 score.

Last week at West Virginia, Minix set a Tech record by playing 55 minutes in a triple overtime 106-101 win over the Mounties.

Minix, a steady 6-1 senior guard, believes both he and the Tech team are now playing their best ball. He isn't satisfied with their 9-8 record but he is optimistic about the remaining nine games.

"I honestly feel we can win 'em all," Minix said. "But we have to start tonight. Clemson is tough. They give you a physical beating inside. We'll have to beat them on the boards if we hope to win. Last time they got most of the key rebounds and that made a difference."

Minix doesn't think he will get as many open shots this time. In the first meeting, Clemson was overplaying Allan Bristol and Minix was able to drive inside for the layup or short jumper.

Captain Charlie Lipscomb can play a key role tonight. He wasn't in top form at Clemson and managed only four points and four rebounds.

Clemson's inside game is built around 6-11 Dave Angel, 6-5 Denny Odle and 6-7 Mike Browning. But the man who makes the Tigers go is Bub Martin, a 6-1 guard who did a big job earlier this week on Virginia's Barry Parkhill.

The Tigers will be trying to rebound from a tough 62-58 loss to the Cavaliers.

"It's hard to tell just how they will react," Minix said. "I know they were up for Virginia. I just hope they aren't that ready for us."

There are several reasons why Minix feel Tech is headed for better things.

First of all, he thinks the team has a better knowledge of what new coach Don DeVoe expects. He feels the team is executing better on offense and getting the shots it wants.

The defense has been tough at times but Minix feels the play is becoming consistent.

And probably best of all is a deeper feeling of confidence in themselves as individuals and as a team.

Tonight will be a big proving ground for the Gobbler's. A win would put them in good position to finish with with a rather impressive record. But a loss could mean hard times.

The Tech freshmen open action tonight at 5:45 against Hargrave Military.