Hokies Win, 48-44

Tech Cold, Clemson Freezing

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BLACKSBURG — When Clemson hit its first field goal with 1:31 remaining in the first half here Wednesday it left the Tigers only a point shy of VPI's output to that point.

The field goal was also followed by a foul, necessitating a blast on the whistle by an official. The sudden run of excitement not only woke up some of the 5,000 fans, it also stirred the Hokies up enough for a 48-44 Tech victory.

"That was the worst game I've ever seen," Clemson Coach Tate Locke said. "I've played in some worse but that's the worst one I've ever sat and watched."

Craig Lieder sank three free throws and Charlie Lipscomb a pair in the closing minute and a half to nail the victory away for the Hokies, but it could have gone either way.

"What a hell of a way to go into Saturday," Locke said.

The Tigers play South Carolina Saturday. "The only good thing that happened tonight was to DeVoe."

However, Tech coach Don DeVoe must have had his doubts in the early stages. His team was missing layups so consistently it almost looked planned. In the 16-16 Clemson advantage first half each team hit in the neighborhood of 25 per cent of their shots.

And it wasn't a slow down...

We did miss a lot of easy shots at first," DeVoe said.

"If we'd just have hit half of our layups we would have had a comfortable lead at halftime."

"I guess the guys just have a tendency to rush their shots. They run the play just like it's supposed to be run, turn around and find the basket staring them in the face and throw it up too hard."

Allan Bristow led Tech with 24 points and also led the squad in layups missed (4). The VPI shot chart was a study in futility, 3-15 for Bristow, 1-6 Randy Minix and 3-10 for Lipscomb.

"Hell, look at ours," Locke said. "2-9, 3-12, 3-12, and that's from three players who are averaging over 50 per cent for the year.

"Their defense at first got us standing around, but we broke out of that and got some awfully good shots. They just wouldn't go in."

Terrell Stuart was the only Tiger in double figures with 12 points.

Dave Angel, the team's leading scorer was held to nine.

"We adjusted our defense a little to him from the first time we played them," DeVoe said. "Before we fronted him and he got a lot of layups on us. We let him get the ball a little higher this time and held him pretty well."

Clemson is 9-7 now, Virginia Tech is 18-8 now going into a game at Richmond Saturday and Virginia Monday.

This is the first time this season the Hokies have won three straight.

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Tech's Charlie Lipscomb (52) Sneaks Up on Clemson's Danny Odle