Tech Has Best Game in Win Over W&M

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WILLIAMSBURG — You've heard all those old jokes about the William & Mary basketball team. You know, William showed up, but Mary didn't make it.

Well, Thursday night, William didn't make it either.

Virginia Tech, however, did and the result was the Hokies' 12th victory against nine losses in a lopsided, 90-69, verdict over William & Mary.

Tech coach Don DeVoe said it was the Hokies' best effort of the year. "Maybe it was, but it was certainly their most consistent."

The Hokies presented a balanced scoring attack. Allan Bristow got his usual number (28) and Tech continued to get improved play from its guards, Randy Minix (17) and Bill McNeer (16).

Tech forward Ed Frazier, who is usually on the bench nursing three fouls after the first few minutes, got off to his fastest start with 14 in the first half and it was Frazier who was particularly instrumental in providing a healthy Hokie margin.

For once, Tech looked like a fast-breaking team, but DeVoe said not to be fooled. "William & Mary was sending four men to the boards and we were still getting the basketball," DeVoe said. "We had to run then."

"But we're not going to run unless something like that happens. We have to control the tempo and we can do it by running."

Tech's usual day-of-the-game practice had to be cancelled at noon Thursday because the William & Mary hall crew hadn't cleaned up the remnants from the Howdy Doody Show Wednesday night. By the looks of the green tenures of Indians, Howdy Doody stayed over for an extra performance.

But in the Indians behalf, it probably was Tech that made them look so badly. The Hokies shot 57.4 percent from the floor, certainly their best of the season. And the Tech defense, which DeVoe was beaming about, held the Tribe to a measly 36 percent.

"We really played well on both ends of the floor," said DeVoe. "It was the best team effort we've had all season."

Tech's guards, which were correctly branded as mediocre at the beginning of the season, are beginning to come around, basically because they're handling the ball better and taking the outside shot — something Minix in particular did not want to do earlier.

"After a few teams scouted us, everyone knew we were going inside most of the time," Minix said. "They were packing in on Bristow and leaving the outside open but I still prefer to work it inside."

"But the time came when I knew I had to get some points on the stat sheet if I was going to keep my job."

It is Minix and McNeer, according to DeVoe, who have been most responsible for Tech's recent success, five victories in the last six games.

"They opened the game up tonight," said DeVoe. "They're the reason we've been playing better."

Tech is off until Monday when it hosts Tulane.