Hokies Subdue Tulane; 76-55 Game Isn’t a Classic

By MARC MENG
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BLACKSBURG — “Hey don’t let things get out of hand like that down there,” an obvious Hokie fan shouted at Don DeVoe the first time Tech called time out against Tulane here Monday.

In theory, the guy raised a hillbilya good point, but at the rate things were regressing—putting it into practice would take some doing.

Well, DeVoe restored some semblance of order to his team and it went on to throw the Green Wave 56-25, but as DeVoe understated it, “It wasn’t a brilliant game.”

When your team misses five layups the first 30 minutes and commits six turnovers and still leads 15-3, a coach is justified in saying the play was anything short of brilliant.

The tempo was set for VPI’s first 15 seconds when Bill McNeer drove uncontested for the goal and the ball dribbled off the edge. Charlie Lipscomb pulled down the rebound, leaped and attempted to drop the ball in from a good eight inches over the goal—again off the iron.

Allan Britstow took a crack at it, nothing. McNeer pumped one, but Lipscomb was called for offensive goal tending.

And until much later in the game, things didn’t get much better.

The Hokies went on to a 23-17 halftime lead, earning 29 per cent of their shots and Tulane blanked away at a 27 per cent clip.

“We have trouble with the easy shots at the beginning of the game,” DeVoe said. “I have to credit the defense. Even when we were playing such lousy offense the defense was as stingy as it has been all year.

“Our kids soaked it up. When you keep clicking them the way they stuck Tulane it has to frustrate a team.”

VPI ran up as much as a 20-point lead in the second half, 25-23, with 10 minutes left. It deteriorated as DeVoe emptied his bench.

Britstow, ice cold from the field was redeemed by the host of missed shots. He picked up 14 rebounds in the first half and went on to snag 18 for the game. He was Tech’s leading scorer with 17 points but shot a ridiculous 7-29 from the field. He hit only two of 11 the first half.

“Britstow seemed to be forcing his shots,” Devoe said, “I thought he would be able to work toward the basket and get the easy driving shots, but he seemed to be content to try to shoot over the man.

“Then when he does that, it forces him to lean back and he can’t hit from that position.”

DeVoe said that one of Britstow’s main problems now is getting him to move to his right. “We’re going to have to work that out of him,” he said. “He won’t move but one way and people aren’t going to let you do that all the time.”

Jeff Morris led Tulane with 15 points. The Green Wave is having its difficulties this season. It has won only seven games in 26 tries.

“I thought Ed Frazier did a brilliant job on Morris,” Devoe said, “He kept taking the ball away and kept him bottled up.”

VPI’s record moves to 13-9, 7-6 at home. The Hokies go against Loyola, Baltimore, at home next Monday.