Tech's Allan Beistow (center) fights for ball with Loyola's Ed Butler (left), Rod Floyd.

Tech's Season Hopes Soar High With Win

By STEVE WAID

BLACKSBURG — You could almost smell it. Tech had a peculiar basketball season. The Hokies began the season with high hopes for an excellent year, knowing they had strength experienced manpower to do the job.

But the season began rough and stayed that way. The Hokies stumbled into a third place finish in the ACC, barely scraping by for a .500 record.

Now, however, things are different. The Hokies have mounted an 8-game winning streak and are looking like a team that is ready to make a statement in the NCAA Tournament.

Loyola, however, don't fall easily. The Greyhounds come to Cassell Coliseum to play basketball, and they did just playing a controlled, aggressive game. Loyola took the game to the Hokies, but the Hokies responded. They were patient, scored a basket every way to tie the final seconds. The Hokies fell to a tie from a three-pointer in the last two minutes, but pulled a game away on free throws by Bill Woodard and Randy Musico in the closing seconds.

One month could not decide the Greyhounds' playoff hopes. "They were well-deserved," said Tech coach Charlie Lipscomb. "They had the ball, missed a couple of shots, and just waited for the post season.

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although not spectacular, performer for the squad, expressed his thoughts on the Hokie season.

“This is my last go round,” he mused, “and I’d like to go out a winner. At the beginning of the year, that didn’t look too good. And we could have had such a better record now if we had gotten a few breaks. If we could have beaten South Carolina, which we should have. Or that VMI thing. Or if we had beaten Texas A&M in overtime. We could have been 19-7 by now and NCAA or NIT material.

“I’m not a pessimist, and when things didn’t look good I still went out and did my best,” he continued. “Now things are looking better, and I think we can win every game we’ve got left. Our morale is high, practice is better, and we seem to be getting the breaks we never got when we were losing.”

Losing is something Tech would rather do without. And they say they won’t lose.

“We’re ready to go get anybody,” said Lipscomb, “even Kent State.”