Tech Foils
UR, McCurdy y
22-69
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By Harold Pearson

Looking much like a man with the weight of the world onlyly half his own shoulders, Virginia Tech coach Don DeVoe emerged from the Hokie dugout onto the grassy section of water last night with the words: "Well, when the thing was over, we had the highest score."

Final score was Tech 83, Richmond 16.

But DeVoe was reluctant to go off the deep end over his team's first win in three tries at the Richmond sports palace, which was filled with its first sellout.

"We're just not consistently playing the kind of game we have to play to have big season," he said after the Hokies had struggled through a poor second half to their 11th win in 16 games.

Chiefly, his reference was to Tech's failure to put the game away shortly into the second half, when the Hokie defense kicked in and the team was scoring for the first time.

"We had several chances to build on it, and we just didn't shoot well the second half and we had some foolish turnovers.

Four of those turnovers came in that half and opened the door to adding five points to the advantage they had built over the first 20 minutes.

In those minutes, Tech shook off an early UR bug that resulted in three fives and four changes. Hit 23 of 37 and moved to a 50-40 intermission bulge. Their third quarter charge were Dave Sensbaugh, who hit 7-of-10, and Duke Thorpe, who added 11.

An even bigger man, however, was UR's Bob McCurdy, who twisted and turned his way to 21 points before the break with 8 of 13.

He was very impressive," said DeVoe. "I thought we did about as good a job as we could do on him and he just muscled through in there."

But after UR's 19-18 advantage on a McCurdy basket at 12:16, Tech ran off an 84-2 burst in 1:15 to put down a threat. When McCurdy brought UR back to 30-26 at 6:53, Thorpe and Sensbaugh, who had 15 and 14 points, respectively, at that half, took it away again. They got it to nine with a 16-2 burst (40-49) in.

Sensbaugh had a good chunk of a nature in the second half were by the Spiders, but they all came when UR was 15 or more in arrears.

"We just showed a lack of poise in our transition runs up and downs were explained by DeVoe, who has decided this will be last at least for now of Tech teams to the UR campus. "We didn't take advantage of their not scoring.""

"I did think our defense was better, but when you're keeping the other team from scoring, you should be scoring more."

The defense restricted Mc-
Curdy to seven second-half shots, as the nation's No. 3 scorer finished with 33, but what the Hokies were doing too often was having the ball stolen away (14-second half turns).

These three turned into enough baskets to get within three times, the last on Dave Williams' basket (68-41) at 5:58 to play. In the foul shooting that was the feature of the remaining moments, Larry Cooke, Mary Carwitt and Thorpe set the relief off.

"The issue was in count right up to the final buzzer," said DeVoe, knowing full well it shouldn't have been.

"If we had made some foul shots, been able to pass and catch the ball," said UR coach Carl Stone, after the Spiders' ninth loss in 13 games, "in the last seven, we might have won it.

"Except for a few lapses, I thought we defense was pretty good. It was just the fundamental things that beat us."

And that first-half shooting..."we packed our defense back hurt you so much off the offensive boards and Sensbaugh hasn't been shooting like that (career-high 15). But I guess that's what he's out there for."

He coded in the second half, though, as DeVoe "thought we were needing some leadership."

This game, when the game was in the first half minutes from conclusion and the Spiders moving to within eight at 67-59, and it was provided by Cooke, who had been seated most of the game with foul problems.

Within a two-minute span, he had two assists (to Thorpe) and a basket to move it to 73-61. But he hit only one of 19 shots and at 2:55 to start the free throw shooting that wrote the final score.

"The most important aspect was that we had never won here," said DeVoe, "and it was the first of four road games. So, really it was a big win."