Indians Blown Off Court As Hokies Of Virginia Tech Even The Score

By Bill Mason
Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech, still smarting from a humiliating loss to William and Mary earlier in the season, turned the Indians every way but loose in a net-burning scoring display Wednesday night in the series’ final game.

An appreciative crowd of 6,000 which saw Tech power its way on a 30-point lead by halftime, chanted, “We want 100” as the third quarter started. They got it as the Hokies won in a brisk breeze, 101-75.

Coach Don DeVoe who termed the rebounding “tremendous” said, “I couldn’t be more pleased.”

Tech thumped the boards with a 46-21 edge in rebounding and punched large holes in the Indians’ defensive allowance. W & M had been allowing its opponents an average of 62 points per game and had outrebounded opponents by an average of eight, with the likes of 6-10 Dennis Vail and 6-11 Matt Courage.

The Hokies’ shooting strength was at its hottest, 66% in the first half and 62% in the second half from the floor, led by forward Russell Davis who has recaptured his early-season scoring form.

Davis had 10 of 18 from the field and five of five from the line. Kyle McKee led Duke Thorpe in rebounding by one with 12 boards and again hit double figures.

Dave Sensibaugh did an expert job of leading a finely-honed offense and turned in a game-high eight assists.

Reserve strength, which failed in the earlier gam at Williamsburg, was there in force as the scoring pace remained steady and impressive until the final harried seconds after the total had reached 99.

DeVoe said he kept his starters in as long as he did (from 28 to 31 minutes) to improve their conditioning for the North Carolina game at the Coliseum, which was scheduled to be played last night.

The coach was pleased with the playmaking of Sensibaugh, scoring of Davis and Larry Cooke, continued board improvement of McKee, defensive strength of Thorpe and maturing of the reserves.

Admitting that the reserves were stronger this time, DeVoe stated: “Overall we are winning and that is my prime consideration. We’re doing a lot better job with overall play.”

“We established a tempo to our advantage early. We rebounded well and got down the floor well. We made things happen,” the coach said, adding that he considered a win over the Wolfpack as crucial to Tech’s late-season hopes.

The Hokies have two equally-crucial road games this week at Oklahoma City Thursday and at Oral Roberts Saturday before returning for the final contest against tough, improved West Virginia Wednesday, Feb. 26.

William and Mary’s only flicker of hope was guard Ron Satterthwaite who hit for 23 points.

Virginia Tech—101. Davis, 25; Cooke, 16; McKee, 13; Sensibaugh, 12; Mark Cartwright, 10; Thorpe, nine; Phil Thieme, Dennis Shrewsberry, each six; Barry Isom and Sam Fogg, each two.

William and Mary—75. Satterthwaite, 23; Gary Byrd and John Lowenthal, each 12; Comage, seven; Mike Enoch, six; Danny Monckton, three; Skip Parnell, Dennis Vail and Jim McDonough, each two.

THIENEMAN SCORES—Phil Thieme had the best field goal average of a host of Tech reserves who saw action against William and Mary. Thieme, seen getting past an Indian defender, scores as Jay Skulborstad awaits the rebound. The soph from Louisville, Ky., hit on three of three.