VPI Wins As Tourney Hope Fades

By CHARLES KARMSKY
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BLACKSBURG — Already dim post-season tournament hopes for Virginia Tech depended on beating long-time rival West Virginia University "by at least 20 points" Wednesday night.

If that's the case, no flurry of bids is expected now that the Gobblers' 1974-75 campaign is ended, because they flirted with the 20-point spread midway through the last half but wound up winning only 88-78 in a game played raggedly by both teams throughout.

While running its record to 16-10 to nail down a fifth consecutive season of .500 or better, the Techmen rampaged in the first 12 minutes after intermission while limiting the Mountaineers to a mere two field goals and three free throws.

That sent the Gobblers on top 19 points (63-44) with 7:58 remaining and put WVU on the skids for its 11th setback against 13 victories.

However, the eventual victors appeared to relax defensively and lost some of their scoring punch as Russell Davis and Larry Cook entered the bench with four personal fouls.

Both came back, but Cook fouled out with 3:32 of action left, and the Mountaineers were able to cut sharply into the Gobblers' advantage twice had their deficit shaved to eight points in the last three minutes.

Davis wound up the game's No. 1 point producer, tallying 25, while Warren Baker ended up with 22 for the losers. Maurice Robinson might also have reached the 20-point mark for the visitors, but he also had four personal fouls with less than four minutes elapsed in the last half.

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