tense and we didn’t play like we were capable of playing. We had our defense set up, but it really didn’t work because they spread us out and made us run all over the place. They passed the ball very well and shot very well. They had played 100 or so games this year, and they knew how to work together.”

Asked how he felt during the ceremonies in which the U.S. team was awarded the bronze medal, Coles replied, “Disappointed. Watching the Soviets get their gold, we were all disappointed. Our main goal was to go over there and win the gold medal. It feels good to have the bronze medal, but I would have loved to have had the gold.”

Nonetheless, the quiet-spoken Lewisburg, W.Va., native returned to his hometown and to the Virginia Tech campus as an Olympic medalist and a hero. At midnight Oct. 15—the exact minute that the NCAA allows formal team practices—students and fans filled Cassell Coliseum and gave Coles a lengthy standing ovation. A few days later, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors adopted a resolution honoring Coles for his outstanding performance as a member of the Olympic team.

Although Coles was disappointed in not getting the gold, Tech coach Frankie Allen still feels that Coles’s Olympic play was much like hitting the “mother lode.” “Every time the Olympic Team did anything, Bimbo’s name was plastered across newspapers across the country and they would always mention Virginia Tech. In the state, it especially had an impact, particularly on our recruiting efforts. The fact that Bimbo is a rising junior means that the people we are

Previous page: Bimbo Coles soars over NBA-superstar Michael Jordan during the Charlotte, N.C., game. Coles led the Olympic team with 15 points to a 95-84 win over the NBA squad. Top: Coles fights 5-foot-3 Tyrone “Muggsy” Bogues for position in the Charlotte game. Below: Coles takes a breather during a break in the action during a Tech game last season.