Basketball World
Hails Tech's Bimbo

John Thompson, Georgetown coach: “Bimbo is the best guard in the United States. I don’t know anyone who can hurt you in as many ways as he can. We did everything to stop him and he still got 22.”

Jim Boeheim, Syracuse coach: “There’s a guard Bimbo Coles at Virginia Tech whom people don’t know that much about because he’s not in a high exposure program. But he’s really a talented player.”

Wimp Sanderson, Alabama coach: “We lost the game for two reasons — because we couldn’t slow down Bimbo Coles and because we did a poor job of rebounding.”

Denny Crum, Louisville coach: “We knew we couldn’t stop Coles. I guess he at least gave some of our younger players a learning experience. Bimbo is just a great player.”

Fred White, Metro Conference telescorer: “It’s rare when a guy the size of Bimbo Coles can dominate a game. But I think he dominates every game he’s in at both ends of the court. People who do what I do for a living ought to thank God for players like Bimbo Coles.”

Richard Morgan, Virginia star player: “I felt the intensity against Tech that we had against Carolina and Duke. But Bimbo Coles was better than anybody Carolina or Duke could offer. Bimbo is awesome, totally awesome.”

Bill Millsaps, executive sports editor, The Richmond Times-Dispatch: “Be quick, John Wooden used to tell his players, ‘but don’t hurry.’ John Wooden would just love Virginia Tech’s Bimbo Coles. The 6-1 junior guard always seems to be going somewhere very fast, but he always seems to be in perfect command of his body, his mind and the situation.”

Russell Johnson, Southern Mississippi guard: “I leaned on Coles all night to try to wear him down. If I hadn’t, he would have scored 45 or 50.”

Tom Young, Old Dominion coach: “I have seen enough of Bimbo Coles. I am glad he’s gone. For the past four years, he has given us fits. I’ll bet he made half of his 33 points in transition and he is an excellent free throw shooter. He’s made 83 free throws this year and we, as a team, have only made 153.”

M.K. Turk, Southern Mississippi coach: “Bimbo Coles is as good a one-on-one player as there is in the country.”

Billy Mitchell, sports editor, The Tuscaloosa, Ala., News: “According to many coaches and other basketball experts (i.e. the Billy Packers and Dick Vitales), Coles may be the finest all-around point-guard in the country and perhaps the best to bounce a ball in Coleman Coliseum since Ennis Whatley took an early hike to the National Basketball Association.”

Chuck Swenson, William and Mary coach: “I’ve seen Bimbo Coles a lot on film, but he’s even tougher than I thought. I’ve seen a lot of great players in the Atlantic Coast Conference, but I’ll tell you this sucker Bimbo can flat out play.”

Vic Dorr, Jr., sportswriter, The Richmond News Leader: “. . . Bimbo Coles, who played like an Olympian (which he is) and a consensus All-America (which he ought to be). Coles constructed a champion’s performance: 43 points, eight assists, four rebounds.”

Michael Jordan, star player, the Chicago Bulls: “Bimbo Coles sure put it in my face. It seemed like every time I turned around all I saw was that number 24. I sort of knew who he was before the game, but I have a feeling I’ll be seeing a lot more of Coles in about three years.”

Larry Finch, Memphis State coach: “Bimbo Coles is a great, great basketball player. No question about that.”

Pat Kennedy, Florida State coach: “Bimbo Coles can win a game single-handedly, and that’s what he did today. He’s just a great basketball player.”

Al McGuire, analyst, NBC Sports: “Coles is my type of player. You guys are really lucky up there at Virginia Tech to get to watch such an exciting talent like Coles about 15 or 20 time a year.”

Lionel Bacon, player, Virginia Commonwealth: “You can’t get too close to Coles because he can penetrate. You can’t get too far off him because he can shoot from outside. You have to watch his eyes to see what he’s going to do. It made me happy when he passed the ball.”

Frankie Allen, head coach, Virginia Tech: “If there’s a better guard in college basketball than Bimbo Coles, then I haven’t seen him. Bimbo is a complete player who has the ability to raise his game to new levels at any time. He is a true All-America.”