BOBBY JONES WIDE OPEN FOR TWO POINTS
UNC Star Hits Fast Break Layup Against Tech

Tech is Cheered
By UNC Stand

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A near-upset won’t buy you anything but an upset anomal. And college basketball’s Top Ten teams are a lot different than the teams that almost pulled off a big upset last night.

But don’t simply throw Virginia Tech’s 82-73 loss last night at undefeated North Carolina into the almost-only-counts-in-horseshoes category.

Tech’s near-upset of the nationally-ranked Tar Heels (5-0) could do wonders for the confidence of the scrappy bunch from Blacksburg. Coach Don DeVoe prefers to see the Tar Heels as a team that simply fought instead of a moral victory.

“A lot of teams would have folded,” DeVoe said. “We didn’t and that’s cer- tainly to our credit,” said DeVoe after the regionally televised game in the Charlotte Coliseum.

The GoHawks were big underdogs going into the game, but they quickly proved that the oddsmakers had overlooked a couple of important factors — hustle and pride.

From the opening layup by Craig Lester right down to the final shot by Charlie Thomas, the independent GoHawks gave the Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouse all it could handle.

“This game should help us,” said UNC Coach Dean Smith.

“It was close and against a good team. Virginia Tech is a very fine team, as we knew they would be, and we were fortunate to come out on top.”

It’s obvious that Tech’s (3-3) still misses center Allan Browning, the star of last year’s National Invitation Tournament championship team that was 22-5.

But last night’s game indicated that the GoHawks won’t completely without Browning around.

Tech’s front line of 6-8 seniors Kyle McKee, 6-4 Ed Frazier and the 6-05 Jones refused to let the Tar Heels dominate the game inside.

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“Tar Heel people have a great job defensively,” said DeVoe.

“They generally have a very physical game.

Techn’s defensive strategy was to go man-to-man against UNC but to inside and try to keep the ball away from the big men near the basket. The Tar Heels could have the inside shot just about anytime they wanted it, but they per- formed in trying to work the ball inside.

Result was that Tech stole or batted away numerous passes to the inside and kept the Tar Heel from showing as many layups as they would have liked.

But Tech’s offensive scheme couldn’t completely shut off the Tar Heel’s outside, and 6-9 center Bobby Jones finished with 20 points and 12rebounds. Several UNC baskets, however, were fast break layups.

Playing against Tech for the first time in 1970, Tech built a 41-38 halftime lead. But UNC got hot after inter- mission and moved out to a 10-point lead with 8:30 to play.

That’s when 5-8 guard Bobby Stevens, hero of last year’s NIT, got the GoHawks in the comeback trail. Stevensuable backcourt mate Thomas hit the key baskets in the rally.

Stevens shot his first 11-12 to play that cut the margin to 32 (77-75), shortly after he outing and the Tar Heels moved back.

Stevens’ replacement, 5-11 freshmen Dennis Fugate, gave him all while filling in for Stevens, who was sidelined with four fouls, this many tops each of the last 20 minutes. The hustling Fugate finished the game with 11 points of his gutsy performance.