**Gobblers Win 82-80**

**BY DAVE J. BISSET**

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Hitting the road may appeal to some, but for Virginia Tech's basketball team, there's no place like home sweet home.

The up and down Gobblers played another cliffhanger Wednesday night but since it was a home game, Tech managed to edge Virginia Tech.

Guard Charlie Thomas who stole the ball during the game, put Tech ahead for good with a basket with 46 seconds left, and added three clutch free throws in the closing 18 seconds as the Hokies edged the Mountaineers, who are now 4-7.

Craig Leider scored a game high of 23 points to pace the Gobblers while Thomas hit 9 of 12 from the floor and four of six crucial free throws for 22 points. Ed Frazier, another senior starter, probably played his best game ever as he 8 of 14 baskets and grabbed in nine rebounds, in the second half when Tech failed time and time again to go to the offensive boards.

Warren Baker, WVU's super soph, lead the Mountaineers with 22 points and 10 rebounds while Levi Phillips added 23 points and Earlus Faust netted 17 for the contest.

Neither team scored a point for almost three minutes as both teams went up and down the court to miss shots. Finally Charlie Thomas sank a free shot from the right corner, then West Virginia's Warren Baker countered with a jump shot to knot 5-5. Ed Frazier put Tech back on top but again Baker's layup kept the Mountaineers even. Thomas then stole and made a layup, Frazier bombed one from out deep to give Tech an early 8-4 lead.

Earlus Faust's layup and Bob Hartenstein's tip in tied the game at 8-8, with a little over 2 minutes to play in the first half. Lieder grab a missed shot and stuck it back for his first two, but again West Virginia evened the contest as Levi Phillips made a layup. Tech lead Kyle Frazier threw up a bomb that went in to put Tech out in front 12-10.

However, Jerome Anderson tied the contest up for the fourth time with an easy layup. Bobby Stevens, who was fouled making both free throws but, Phillips again sank a shot from the key to knot the game. McKee, open at the right corner, swished one and Lieder made a layup to make it 18-14 Tech.

Phillips threw the ball up for a bucket and Faust stole the ball away from Stevens hit the bucket and was fouled giving the Mountaineers a three point advantage at 21-18. Lieder hit from the left corner and put it to one but again Baker's shot from the key kept WVU ahead. Lieder sank two in succession to give the lead back to Tech. Thomas' quickness enabled him to steal the ball and sink it for another bomb and another bomb by Craig (Lieder) gave the Hokies a five point bulge with 7 minutes remaining in the half.

West Virginia hung in as Phillips made a layup, but Missed the shot, but Baker rebounded and put it back up for two. Frazier hit the key but Hartenstein's sweeping hook and Black's jumper sent them Mountaineers back in front at 31-30.

Thomas made one of two free throws and a right hand bomb by Lieder gave Tech a two point lead. Thomas' jumper found the mark, but Baker's two free throws cut Tech's lead to two.

Lieder then buried one deep and former Bobcat standout Dave McCadle entered for total points.

With McCadle in there a lot more leadership was provided as Frazier hit from the key and Anderson's shot kept Tech's lead to only two. Lieder hit again but Frazier's jumper made 61-59.

Tech Anderson's two free throw knot tied the contest however Stevens sank two free throws to give the Hokies the lead at the Half 43-41.

At this point Lieder had 18 of his 23 points and Thomas had 11 of his 20 total points for the night. Meanwhile WVU had hit 50 percent of their field goals but had turned the ball over 12 times to only six for Tech. Faust's 11 and Baker's 10 were the only Mountaineers who had reached double figures by the half.

In the second half McKee tip in the ball as Tech went out in front 45-41. Anderson hit from the baseline and Tech's McKee, who missed two free throws, got the ball back and stuck it out for two as Tech maintain their four point margin.

Baker and Faust each hit baskets to even the contest at 47-47. Then it was Frazier from the corner but Phillips bombed another long one. An exchange of layups knotted the score at 51-51. Lieder again doing his thing hit from the key and Stevens made one of two free throws and then stole the ball away from Phillips and hit the bucket to give Tech a five point margin.

With 13:39 left, Phillips dropped in a shot and when Frazier hit his bucket, WVU went back into their zone defense instead of man-to-man coverage.

Dave Senbaugh came in for Stevens who couldn't find the range and made a three-pointer to make it 60-58. Larry Carr, in the lineup for West Virginia, swished one from the left corner before West Virginia's Coaching staff was called for a technical foul. Lieder made the one point with Tech getting the ball back in play. Thomas drove for and made a layup keeping the Gobblers in front by six points.

For a brief moment Tech thought they might be ready to streak out into a big lead but Phillips sank one shot and two baskets by Baker evened the contest at 62-62. This was the 12th and final time the game was tied.

With 8:25 remaining Thomas put Tech in the lead with a long one handed bomb, McKee hit a jumper, and Frazier's steal and layup gave Tech 65-63 lead.

Sophomore Warren Baker's driving layup and Hartenstein's bucket cut it to two again. McKee scored and Baker got a tip in with 3:50 left giving the Hokies a two point margin. Phillips hit from underneath and was fouled by McKee who picked up his fifth. Phillips hit the free throw giving the Mountaineers the lead for the first time since late in the first half.

With Lieder hitting a basket Ed Frazier stole the ball and sank the layup. Not to be outdone Thomas stole the ball and also hit the basket on a layup to give Tech a 77-72 lead with 3:30 to go. After West Virginia's time out Earlus Faust bombed one and hit another one from the left corner to cut the Hokies margin to one. Phillips bomb sent WVU into the lead with 1:59 left.

Tech quickly called for a time out and when play resumed, the Techmen kept the ball for 64 seconds before Thomas hit from the key and swished for two. With 25 seconds left Thomas stole the ball and was fouled. Making Tech increase their margin to 81-78 but then WVU called timeout.

As play resumed WVU's Hartenstein hit from the key making 81-80 Tech. Tech got the ball in court and Thomas was quickly fouled. Hitting the first one it made 83-80 but Charlie missed the second shot and Tisbee grabbed the rebound only to pushed out of bounds. The ball went into mid-air grabbed by a Mountaineer and passed up court. However, Frazier playing head's up ball stuck out an area to send the ball out of bounds at mid-court. The in-bounds pass went to a mountaineer who attempted a shot for Tech's last shot and hit a bomb made 85-85.

West Virginia's Dave McCadle (15) and Tech's Charlie Thomas jump for the half late in the first half. McCadle, who played almost three minutes provided the spark as the Mountaineers fought back to tie the game at 43-43. Thomas scored 22 points while (43) Warren Baker of WVU hit 10 of 15 field goals and 5-5 foul shots for 22 points. (Journal photo by Dave Bisset).