ORUNips Tech 70-68

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
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BLACKSBURG—Oral Roberts coach Ken Trickey wanted to show people that his Titans can play any way they want to in nipping a stubborn Virginia Tech team here Saturday night 70-68.

Trickey explained after the game, "A lot of people said you can't take five black kids and play run and shoot and win big games, but we showed we can play conservatively and win tonight."

Virginia Tech came back after trailing 58-48 with eight minutes left, but key steals by Charlie Thomas and two clutch baskets by Dennis Shrewsberry of Pulaski cut it to 64-60 with 4:37 to go.

Bobby Stevens stole a pass and hit Thomas on the break for one basket and Stevens stole the ball for a layup which tied the score at 64-64 with 3:59 remaining.

Shrewsberry put the Gobblers on top at 66-64 before Oral Roberts candidate for All-America guard Sam McCants knotted it at 66-66 with 2:23 left.

After two free throws by Al Boswell, Stevens took an 18-foot jump shot to again tie the score at 68 apiece. That sent the overflow crowd of 10,000 into hysterics.

At this time, the Titans went into a stall, wanting to take the last shot. After wasting much of the clock, Tech's freshman Duke Thorpe committed his fifth foul by hacking center Eddie Woods with only nine seconds to go.

Woods missed the pressure shot, the front end of a one-and-one, but got the rebound and dropped it back in for a 70-68 lead with six seconds showing.

Tech was slow in getting the ball in bounds and only two seconds were left when the Gobblers finally managed to call time out.

Shrewsberry inbounded the pass to Craig Lieder in the corner, who went up for the shot, but had it slapped away by 6-8 Greg McDougald, which ended the game.

McDougald said after the game, "I was hoping I could block it, he's (Lieder) too much of a good shooter to let him have it. There's no way you can let him have an open shot like that. I was lucky."

The game was tight all the way with Oral Roberts taking a 38-32 lead at intermission, and early in the second half had ten point leads erased by Gobbler comeback.

Lieder paced Tech, now 7-6, with 22 points, followed by Charlie Thomas with 20. McCants paced the Titans with 20 points. McDougald had 16.

Oral Roberts showed their dominance on the boards, outrebounding Tech 42-28.

"We controlled the tempo until the end, but we didn't score when we really had to," said a dejected Gobbler coach Don DeVoe. "Oral Roberts made the big play when they had to."

Duck Head And Drive

Is what you might do in football. But here it looks like Oral Roberts center Eddie Woods is trying to cover up the ball and run over Virgina Tech's freshman Duke Thorpe. Pulaski's Dennis Shrewsberry, who played a terrific game, (51), watches the ball. Oral Roberts nipped Tech, 70-68.