Virginia Tech Loses At Home

BY BILL CATE
Times Sports Writer
BLACKSBURG — If it is not a known fact, it is least a strong rumor that if you can halt Wake Forest's guards, you can stop Wake Forest.

Well, Virginia Tech accomplished that tack here Saturday night and promptly lost a basketball game, 64-58.

Tech's Charlie Thomas stayed close enough to Wake's prolific scorer Tony Byers to tie his shoelaces.

About all Byers got done was watch his 18.1 average drop. Byers scored 13, while his runningmate freshman Skip Brown got 10, but the people who hurt Tech were the ones who scored the rest.

It was only the 18th loss in 13 years of Tech basketball in the Coliseum. And it was a game which was only in doubt at the end. Wake had a comfortable margin throughout most of the contests.

"We got killed inside," said disappointed Don DeVoe, the Tech coach who keeps looking for the right combination and continues to find the safe locked.

"We got done what we wanted to do," said Carl Tacy, who won a state high school tournament in this building before it had seats.

Tacy, of course, is no stranger to Tech basketball. He halls from down the road. Pullaski.

"It is not news to say that Tech shot poorly. If the basketball was a rifle they'd never lose a squirrel season. The Hokies, who shot a poor 30 per cent in the first half, increased that to a paltry 36.5 by the game's end.

"They (Wake Forest) played like they were wearing the white jerseys," said DeVoe. "They played like they were supposed to win the game."

If one individual really cost Tech, it was freshman Jerry Schellenberg, who did not miss (7 for 7) a shot from the field. They weren't layups, either.

"We knew he was a pure shooter who stood on two feet," DeVoe said. "Tonight he might have jumped a half inch. Whatever he did, he killed Tech.

"They got the ball to their inside people when they were in scoring position," DeVoe said. And when they got it, they scored.