Tacy's Demon Deacons Slip By Virginia Tech

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BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech's fighting gobblers, almost spoiled Wake Forest coach Carl Tacy's home-coming Saturday night, when the Techmen came back from a 15-point deficit to make the demon Deacons struggle for a 64-58 win.

Down once in the first half by as many as 17, at 32-15, Tech used a scrappy man-for-man defense and some clutch shooting to cut it to 33-32 at intermission. Tough shooting by Charlie Thomas cut the score to 36-39 early in the second half, but Bobby Stevens blew a layup after a steal and Wake Forest was able to keep its lead intact.

Freshman Skip Brown of Kingsport, Tenn., hit two straight for a 40-39 lead before the Gobblers came chopp ing back at the deficit again.

Keeping it close, baskets by Mike Collins and Ed Frazier cut it to 48-44 with 3:47 left in the game, but Deacon freshman Jerry Schellenberg kept the visitors at bay with hit hot shooting (seven for seven from the field) to put Wake ahead by 10 again, 54-44 midway through the second half.

In all, Craig Lieder the Hokies got charging back again with two free throws, while sensational Duke Therpe and Stevens connected to cut the margin to 54-50 with 8:19 remaining.

Wake Forest junior college transfer Dan Moody used his inside ability for a bucket and a foul for one point to give Wake Forest a 57-50 lead at 57:00. Guard Ed Frazier hit two straight buckets to cut it to 59-54 as Tech refused to give up. After a Tony Byers field goal Wake Forest installed a well-drilled stall which forced Tech into a fouling situation with a little over two minutes left.

Trailing 59-54, Schellenberg drew the foul from Stevens, but ironically after not missing a field goal all night, the Deacon freshman missed the front end of a one-and-one. Tech got the rebound and fed Therpe inside who scored for a three-point deficit at 59-56 with 1:53 showing on the clock. Again Wake stalled, this time Byers drawing a foul. He hit the front end of the one-and-one, but missed the second shot with Tech again gaining control of the ball.

Tech trimmed the margin to two points, the closest they had been since the first minutes of play when Pulaski's Dennis Shrewsberry missed two shots that tapped the ball to Charlie Thomas who scored with 1:07 remaining.

Tacy called a timeout with 16 seconds left to put another guard in on defense. Gobblers coach Don DeVoe tried to work up shooting strategy for Tech, and lost possession of the ball and Stevens immediately fouled Brown who hit both shots to give the victory at 54-58. Schellenberg insured the victory with two free throws with 15 seconds left.

Schellenberg paced the Deacons, who had five men in double figures, with 16 points. Byers hit for 13, being held down from his normal shooting game by the defensive-minded Charlie Thomas. Moody hit for 11, Brown 10 and Mike Parrish 8, all in the first half. Wake, now 10 and seven on the season, hit 50 percent from the floor.

Thomas paced the Hokies with 12 points, followed by Collins with 11 and Frazier with 10. The Gobblers, now 10 and nine, shot a dismal 38.5 per cent for the night, hitting only 23 of 61 shots from the field. The Deacons outrebounded Tech 37-31.

"I think they came in here and just played like they had on the white jerseys instead of us," said DeVoe after the game. "Wake Forest made the foul shots at the end when they had to, and they stalled us entirely too long." DeVoe pointed out.

"We dug our own grave in the first half when we were giving them the open shots. They delivered the ball where it had to be and I think they just did a fine job," the Gobbler's skipper explained.

This was a key victory for Tacy's Deacons, who are two and four in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Deacons look which had its basketball reputation at Pulaski High School and Ferrum Junior College commented, "I'm really happy to win up here. I think it's tough to play them at home. When Tech came back, we took the initiative to do what we should have been doing all night (Tacy referring to their shooting from the floor)." "We got into foul trouble but we did a good job, we did what we wanted to do. The Deacons missed a two-three zone and a tight man-for-man defense which surprised the Tech people. Not many teams play Tech man-for-man," Tacy said.

When asked about the various defenses, Tacy said, "I thought the change was good for us. We like to play a man-for-man and we wanted to get away from the zone and did. We didn't have our usual good timing and passing."