Ups and downs still bug Tech

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BLACKSBURG—It’s there, no mistake about it. Despite Virginia Tech’s 49-14 conquest of Toledo here last night, the inconsistency that has plagued the Hokies is still around. It hangs on like a bad cold.

Consider last night. The Hokies, playing a superb defense and doing pretty much what they wanted on offense, ran away from Toledo with a 25-0 lead after halftime, only to see it re-

remaining in the final half.

But Toledo began to con-
tend. Tech hit a bit of its own trap, and the most of Tech’s good’s, and managed to score points in the final six minutes and close the game to 39-51.

By the final, the Hokies got a fine game-ending performance from guard Bobby Stover. The Hokies scored three times in five minutes and close the game to 56-53.

“Tonight, we made too many mistakes offensively in the second half and we made them run at us. We made them look good,” Tech assistant coach Don DeVoe said.

“We just put into those dips,” said Tech assistant coach Smitty. “Last year we got in the same problems, but we had a player (Allan Erzinger) who could lift us out of the dip. Now, we don’t have that player just yet. All it really amounts to is a matter of confidence.”

Tech’s inconsistency prob-

lem, at least as far as last night was concerned, centered in a loss of tempo, according to forward Ed Frazier, who played a fine game with 11 points until he fouled out.

“We sometimes come out playing well and then when we get the lead we play too cautious,” Frazier said. “We try to sit on our lead. Sure, we were hurt a little bit by their zone trap, but we shouldn’t have been. We knew it was coming.

“We should’ve moved the ball more offensively. We held it up too long. When we get our tempo going, then we should keep it going and not try to slow it down.”

Tech’s first-half power, which was headed by freshman Duke Thorpe with eight points, (the wound up with 18 points in his first varsity start), resulted in a 32-32 halftime lead.

The Hokies were holding Toledo outside with a tough man-to-man defense while moving the ball well and getting inside for some solid shots.

But things didn’t quite work that way in the second half, especially in the five-minute span that allowed Toledo to make its run.

“I wasn’t pleased with our defense at that point,” said DeVoe. “We didn’t stay after them and they were able to get the offensive rebounds on us.”

“I thought we were bothered more by the officiating,” said guard Charlie Thomas.

“We could move the ball offensively in the second half, but we’d get downcourt and have walking called on us or they would knock the ball out of our hands and the refs would call it out on us.”

If Thomas had a complaint about the officiating, Toledo Coach Bob Nichols had a vendetta. He rushed off the court at the end of the game to blast referees Jimmy Russell and Wayne Duncan, saying that the three technical fouls called on him during the game were the result of incompetence.

“I was told by Russell that we couldn’t get off the bench during a game,” Nichols said.

“That is an ACC rule and we don’t have it in our part of the country.”

“Well, all I can say is after tonight, I can only appreciate the referees we have back at home.”

Tech, now 11-4, has four straight road games beginning Monday at Richmond before returning home Feb. 23 against Mercer.