There was a moment during Tech's second half barn burn against Mercer when, if a Tech player had drop-kicked the ball from center court it would have gone in the basket, such was the runaway momentum.

The same crowd that a year earlier had worried, sweated and shouted the Gobblers on to the NIT, hopped to its feet and roared at the lightning steals and fast breaks that suddenly materialized.

Here was a team that had finally captured what it had been seeking all season–momentum that wins. It hadn't been a masterpiece of ball handling–there were 52 turnovers in all. There would be no post-season bid this year, but when Mercer was nearly blown out of the Coliseum, it really didn't matter. It was a great way to end a home season and the home careers of Tech's most outstanding contingent of seniors in any recent year.

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Was too much expected of this year's team, billed as the NIT defending champions? Maybe so. If there ever was a Super Hokie, it was Allan Bristow, on the record Tech's number one basketball player ever.

No player or combination of players could quite take up the slack left by his graduation, although Tech gave all it had, which was plenty.

Cold shooting dogged the Hokies all season long, although the better than average showing against Mercer could lead to a winning season.

This year's candidate for Super Hokie could be Charlie Thomas, who came to the aid of scoring leader Craig Lieder on many occasions as they teamed for the larger share of Tech's points, and also kept the defensive pressure on.

Lieder had a good strong senior year, often making the difference between winning and losing with his field goals and very cool hand at the free throw line.

Tech basketball, with two games to go, has been what you would have to call a very interesting year. ***