Tech Takes Breather

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The Marietta Pioneers had a Miracle (Mitch) on their team and that's what it would have taken for tiny Marietta College to have defeated Virginia Tech last night in Cassell Coliseum. The Techmen opened their season in fine fashion as they walloped the Pioneers 92-62.

It was one of those opening breathers, now common among major universities, but it did give first year Tech head Coach Charlie Hair the opportunity to showcase his sparkling group of freshmen.

Sparkle they did as 6-8 Wayne Robinson hit for 14 points, Les Henson 11, and Ron Bell tossed in 11.

For Marietta, the night was a total disaster. Head coach Phil Roach gave his team a dressing down in the locker room at games end.

I'm ripped because we didn't play like we should have. They should be too. We gotta be tougher. We've got to get our heads screwed on and we'll beat the pants off some people."

Asked if he wasn't a little harsh with his team as it was obvious that he was up against superior talent, Roach agreed. We realize that, but I'm giving this bunch my best, but they didn't give me their best tonight, I'm ashamed."

While Roach wasn't impressed with his teams performance he was with Tech's. "They have some real talent. Their inside game is tremendous. We just don't have the size or quickness to stay with them. It was quite obvious to me as I'm sure it was to everyone there tonight that they were far superior to us."

Roach was also very impressed with the Tech facilities. "We usually play Ohio University and they have a nice place, but nothing like this. I'm sure our kids were awed, and I was for a while, then the game started and I was then in awe of their team."

"As far as my team's play, we made just too many mistakes. We're a much better shooting team than we were tonight. Our shot selection was miserable, especially in the first half."

Asked why he would want to play Tech, quite obviously a game in which he had no chance to win, Roach explained, "We play for the money for one thing, but that's not the only reason. Some people disagree with me, but I feel this will make us a better team, sure. I know it is a loss and most people say you never learn anything from losing, but this will make us tougher when we get into league play against people our size. I feel we need to go up against real good competition early in the year and then we'll be ready to play good solid basketball the rest of the way. We found out something about our team tonight. We need to show more patience on offense with our lack of quickness.

"We made the bad mistake on offense. Tech's big people would then take the ball off the board and shove it out on the break and get the easy hoops. That's about the whole story of this game."

It is quite possible that Marietta didn't play their best on this night, but it was also quite apparent that if they had it wouldn't have made much difference.