Moir Celebrates Birthday With Victory

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
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“Do you have a heart? Then seek a lighter mood,” read Coach Charlie Moir’s horoscope forecast for Monday evening.

The Virginia Tech basketball coach, celebrating his 47th birthday, watched his Hokies break open a wide halftime lead with a late spurt, then go on to record their second straight victory, 96-76 over visiting Charleston Baptist.

“It was a win; not really an artistic win,” said Moir whose team must now face West Virginia, Ohio State and North Carolina in succession over a span of the next week and a half.

“We knew they had better personnel then Marietta,” a team that Tech beat 92-62 Saturday, added the coach. “Still you couldn’t hide the fact that they (Charleston) went 2-24 last year.’’

Baptist played with inspiration the first 20 minutes, holding Tech to only a 33-26 lead with 4:06 left in the first half. However, Tech’s first 16 players saw action up to that point, and Moir’s quickly retrieved his starting five.

Quickly the Hokies had rebuilt a 41-30 lead with 4:33 left in the first half. With two minutes left and Tech holding a 47-38 lead, junior Sam Fogglin converted a three point play and senior Phil Thiemeen pumped in a pair of baskets to blow it open to 54-40, outscoring the Bucs 7:2 in the final 120 seconds.

Despite their own lackadaisical offensive play and a zone thrown up by Charleston, the Hokies managed to keep their distance by connecting on a bootload of medium range jump shots which forced man-to-man strategy by the Bucs in the second half.

Baptist Coach Danny Monk, formerly of Roanoke, must have been ever more discouraged with the opening minutes of the second half. Tech sophomore guard Marshall Ashford got a hot hand scoring 10 points in just over seven minutes to lead Tech to a 24-6 outscoring of the Bucs for a 76-56 advantage.

Tech’s three big men, Duke Thompson, Ernest Wansley and Sam Fogglin all went to the hoop and made Tech’s lead blossom to its largest of the night at 96-58 with 5:32 to go before the reserves entered the game with just under two and a half minutes showing on the Cassell Coliseum clock.

Both Moir and Monk agreed that the Tech outburst to begin the second half rendered the Bucs helpless.

“The first few minutes of the second half we were playing good defense, cutting off their baseline,” noted the Hokie boss. “But the thing I was concerned with was what must have been five occasions when they (Baptist) had five unopposed layups or drives. We just can’t do that.”

For Charleston, now 0-2, Joe Nix, a junior college transfer, led the way with 16 points followed by teammate forward Robert Moore with 13.

Five of Tech’s players hit double figures, with Thorpe hitting 4-of-12 shots for 18 points, followed by Ashford 17, and three players all with 13. Thiemeen, Wansley and Fogglin.

It was a good night for the Tech big men. “We need Wansley to be a double figures scorer every game,” said Moir who wants the 6-11 center from Anderson, S.C. to go to the hoop more.

“We’re not getting the ball into Duke enough inside,” he also criticized his team. “We need to come up with a play or some plays to get it in to him.”

Moir added, “We’ll have to play better to stay with West Virginia,” Wednesday night’s opponents at Morgantown. “We weren’t patient enough on offense and our defense was virtually non-existent in the first half. We were not alert and we let them penetrate.”

Moir was happy that the Hokies were off to the 2-0 start regardless of the competition. “It should instill confidence into our young team going on the road. I just don’t want our players patting themselves on the back, thinking it will get easier... thinking we ought to be in the top 5 or anything like that.”

Wednesday’s astrological prediction for the Sagittarius reads, “If you follow your prearranged plans today, things should work advantageously. However, you’re likely to deviate a bit and cause problems.”

If Moir follows the stars, he’ll be extra careful to tread gingerly at Mountaineer Coliseum come Wednesday night.

In other Virginia college action, Coppin State gets by Hampton Institute 75-71 and Howard downs Catholic 78-74 in a game played at Ft. Meyer.

Virginia State beat Morgan State 106-83 in an opener at Petersburg as Doward Tisdale came up with 32 points and

Bruce Eggleston added 12.

The Bears were hampered by the loss of Eric Bevan who was ejected for fighting with Virginia State’s Leon White.

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VIRGINIA TECH’S 6-11 CENTER ERNEST WANSLEY (50) AT LEFT MAKES DUNK LOOK EASY, WHILE AT RIGHT DUKE THORPE CHARGES HOOP

Charleston Baptist’s Buddy Woods (50) Can’t Stop Wansley At Left, While Bucs’ Calvin McDougal Takes It On The Chin.