Bell Wins One for the Hokies

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BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech stung the Hokies 48-42, but held off a well-coached Ohio State basketball team, 86-77, Saturday night.

The Hokies couldn’t clinch their third win in four starts until junior college transfer Ron Bell hit a pair of free throws with 17 seconds left.

Those foul shots gave Tech an 80-77 lead and Bell ended it with a steal and a layup.

This is the same Bell who missed the front end of two one-and-one opportunities in the closing minute Wednesday night as the Hokies dropped a one-pointer at West Virginia. Bell started the game on the bench, with Phil Thompson playing forward against the tiny Buckeyes. But when Homer Edwards picked up two quick fouls, Bell came in and played the rest of the way.

He scored 11 points, and the final four were vital. "I still missed a couple of free throws, but those last two felt good. I was kind of disappointed in myself after the West Virginia game, but I feel a lot better now."

Bell’s 70 shooting from the field was typical of the way Tech shot the ball. The Hokies hit a scoring 61 per cent (24-34), including 70 per cent in the second half when they missed just six of 30 attempts. One Tech never could breathe easily although it was in command by 14 at 61-47 with 12 minutes left.

At that point, said Coach Charlie Moore, "we thought we got too conservative. We quit taking our offense to them."

Led by guards Larry Golden and Kelvin Runyon, Ohio State ran a patient pick-and-cut offense that set up easy jump shots and layups. The two Buckeyes bucketed two 21-footers and 24 field goals overall.

Ohio State is coached by Eldon Miller, who when last seen was leading the West-

"They ran that weave and it’s pretty hard to defend," said Moore. "Our defensive people couldn’t make up their minds whether to switch or not."

The eventual difference came inside, where 6-foot 10½ Wansley was the domin-

"If we’re going to be a good team, Wansley has to score for us," said Moore. Wansley went into the game averaging just seven points and the big guy said he felt like he had been playing too passive a role for the first half of the season. "I just went back to my old habits. I made up my mind. I wasn’t going to look to pass no more."

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The sellout crowd of 10,890 was enjoying what appeared to be a steadily increasing Tech lead when Ohio State staged a sudden rally late in the game.

The Hokies were in command by 10 at 78-68 with less than five minutes left when a jumper by reserve Terry Burton and two straight buckets by the clever Golden made it 79-71 with 3:06 left.

Bell crossed one of two free throw, but freshman Run-

Buckeyes were able to come back on the final four, but the majority point spread. The foul shots were critical, because Tech had been one of the weaker teams at West Virginia, missing four of five.

Two foul shots by Mike Dargleyn made it 80-77 with 15 seconds to play, but Ohio State score 2-1 away to the final. They picked on Bell, who came into the game shooting a mere 30 per cent. But this time Bell was more than equal to the task.

"I thought we played pretty well," said Moore. "They are so patient that we weren’t even thinking fast break."

"Like a second-year player for making only one sub-

He promised more action from the bench in Saturday’s game against north-ranked North Carolina in the Boston Civic Center.