Ernest Wansley Makes a Move for Virginia Tech as a Full House of 10,063 Watches the Game at the Roanoke Civic Center

Ford, Tar Heels Too Much for Hokies

By BILL SHILL
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Ford was a mager in the four corners offense, which is the only reason that North Carolina was able to survive against Virginia Tech Saturday night.

A waveing crowd of 10,063 was standing and cheering in the final six minutes of the game as the Hokies refused to succumb to the pressure created by UNC's three-point attack, which features Ford—the human jackrabbit—in the middle.

The 17th-ranked Tar Heels were in deep foul trouble when Coach Dean Smith called the four corners right after center Tom LaLonde had drawn his fifth personal foul with 6:15 left.

Carolina was ahead 65-62 at the time, and the Tar Heels scored or drew a foul every time they had the ball the rest of the game.

Normally that would mean an easy win. But Ford was counting with points each time it regained possession.

In fact, the Hokies narrowed the gap to 72-71 and even had a chance to tie the score, but guard Ronnie Edwards took a bad shot and missed.

The Tar Heels had missed four free throws, two at the same time by the usually perfect Ford. Meanwhile, Tech had made eight consecutive free throws and three field goals to make a bold move.

Edwards' miss ended the Hokies' hopes of a big upset. Bruce Buckley playing in place of LaLonde, fouled on the rebound and made both free throws with 1:21 left to make it 79-75.

Ronnie Bell hit a jumper for Tech with 55 seconds left, and it was back to two again. But the four corners then showed another piece of versatility.

Ford and John Kuestel moved the ball so swiftly that Tech couldn't catch up in time to foul. All but four seconds ran off before Phi Thomasson finally got close enough to Ford to grab him. This time the junior All-American made them both to preserve UNC's fourth win in five starts.

"We couldn't get to the man to foul," said Tech Coach Charlie More. "That's my fault. I really wanted us to take a foul as soon as they got to midcourt and I didn't want us to foul Ford."

Ford was amazing down the stretch. He passed off to Buckley for two baskets, then hit two free throws, a dazzling layup and another foul shot.

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Mike O'Koren of North Carolina and Virginia Tech's Duke Thorpe Go After a Rebound and Thorpe Ends Up With It