South Carolina Upends Virginia Tech

By JERRY RATCLIFFE  
Senior Sports Editor
COLUMBIA, S.C.—Frank McGuire felt it was time that his Gamecocks break out of the dip in their roller coaster season. Unfortunately for Virginia Tech, the slumping South Carolina team chose Saturday night to do it.

The Gamecocks, a disappointing 9-9 entering the contest, used a zone defense spread out more than usual to take the visiting Hokies out of their offense in the first half, then fought off a relentless Tech rally in the final 13 minutes to upset Coach Charlie Moir's Hokies, 71-70.

"The win couldn't have come at a better time for us or for a worse time for Charlie Moir," McGuire said afterwards.

"They're (Tech) as good a team as we've seen down here...they'll be in a tournament at the end of the year."

Tech, which shot its worst of the season in the first half (29 per cent from the field), tied the score for the first time since early in the game at 48-all on a Dexter Reid jumper with just under 11 minutes to play. But the Hokies never managed to take the lead, although knotting it three more times.

South Carolina used its "New York Connection" of guards Jackie Gilloon (from West New York,) and Mike Doyle (The Bronx) to decrease the Hokies' chances at the end.

Doyle, the game's high scorer with 22 points (including 7 of 8 field goals in the second half), gave the Gamecocks some breathing room, breaking the game open from a 60-58 USC lead to 68-62 with three penetrating drives down the lane and three free throws for 9 points in a three and a half minute span.

Trailing by six with less than three minutes to play, the Hokies, rated a three-point favorite by the local Columbia press, were on the hot seat.

Marshall Ashford's downtown shot cut it to 68-64 before a Tech timeout with 1:54 remaining. Carolina came back out in a stall offense but quicksilver Hokie guard Ron Bell managed to steal the ball from the heralded Gilloon with 1:24 to go, and was fouled.

Bell sank both free throws, giving Tech a chance at 68-66.

This time McGuire employed a three-guard stall, gambling with freshman Kevin Dunleavy, another New Yorker.

With 35 seconds to play, Ashford was called for a foul against the Gamecock newcomer, who hit only the front end of a one-and-one, for a 69-66 score. But as McGuire explained later, that was enough.

Tech did manage to trim that three point lead to 69-67 on Wayne Robinson's stickback with 18 seconds to go, but only five seconds later Ashford was whistled again for a backcourt foul on Gilloon, a 75 per cent free throw shooter on the season. Gilloon hit both for a 71-68 charge.

Coming back up the floor, Tech missed its initial shot, and struggled desperately to keep the ball alive. After two taps, Sam Foggins managed to drop the shot in for a 71-70 score, but during those slips to keep the ballalive, seconds ticked off and only two seconds remained when Foggins' shot slithered through the net.

By the time the clock had stopped on the inbounds play, one second showed and all Tech could do was try and draw either a charge as soon as the ball was passed in, or steal the pass or get a five second call.

None of those occurred and Carolina broke its two-game losing streak, while snapping Tech's three game winning string and putting the Hokies at 14-3 on the season.

"They spread us out with their zone defense more than we expected" said McGuire.

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N.Y. Connection Burns Gobblers

By JERRY RATCLIFFE  
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Featuring a starting lineup of three New Yorkers, South Carolina pulled off an important win over favored Virginia Tech Saturday night. With center Jim Graziano, and guards Jackie Gilloon and Mike Doyle doing most of the damage, Tech lost a game it felt it needed to win in preparation for an extraordinary week coming up this week.

Monday night the Hokies host 16th ranked Syracuse and before travelling to Charlotte this coming weekend to participate in the North-South doubleheader. In back-to-back nights the Hokies will face heralded N.C. State and Top 10 North Carolina.

"It's a tough loss for us going into next week," said Coach Charlie Moir after the narrow 71-70 setback.

"We really have to work cut out for us now," he winced referring to chances for a fourth post season bid in the last five seasons. Every win is important to an independent.

"We didn't play well the first half, but we were lucky we were only down by seven at the half after shooting just 28 per cent.

It was Doyle's driving and Gilloon's shooting (6 of 9 field, 9 of 10 free throws), plus ball handling (that eventually led Tech in.)

The Gobblers made a late run with one minute to play, down by two.

At that point the Gamecocks came out with a three guard offense with another New Yorker, freshman Kevin Dunleavy. McGuire said he gambled on the freshman because holding the ball long against Tech's quickness can be difficult.

"Even though Gilloon is a great guard, he doesn't have the body and can't work under those circumstances," said McGuire.

"But nothing frightens Dunleavy. He made only one of those two possible free throws, but that gave us the three point lead which proved to be enough," said McGuire. "It's a gamble and if it doesn't work, you look like a goat." He explained, that's the chances "you've got to take."

More was impressed with Gilloon and Doyle. "I think Gilloon handled the ball 75 to 80 per cent of the second half.