Tech Gets 11th Win Of Season Sat.

By Mark Bullock

BLACKSBURG—It was a win, but it wasn’t very pretty.

The Virginia Tech Hokies, paced by Wayne Robinson’s 23 points, picked up their 11th win of the season against one loss, but the Gobblers didn’t turn any heads in the process. “I don’t know the reason why,” said Tech coach Charlie Moir, “but we just didn’t play well tonight.”

The Hokies saw all five starters crack into double figures for the fifth time this season, but an unscored 6,500 TECH fans little to cheer about in the 85-70 win over Canisius.

The most notable area of improvement for the Gobblers was on the defensive, as Tech hit 21 of its 25 attempts, the best effort to date for the Hokies, including seven of eight by Robinson.

The game was won at the charity stripe, as both teams connected on 32 field goals in the contest.

The visiting Golden Griffins shot an icy 36 percent in the first half as Tech took a 14 point lead at intermission, and although forward Ron Peaks led a second half surge that saw Canisius regain within three points at one time, the Hokies got the ball inside to Robinson and Price and put their guests away.

Peaks, a 6-6 junior, ranked 21st in NCAA scoring statistics with a 22.6 average entering the game, and the Flint, Michigan native topped that by netting 26 points, high for the night.

He was busy under the backboards, too, pulling down 16 rebounds, tops in that department as well.

Fortunately for Tech, Peaks had little help in the scoring column, with reserve guard Tom Krzytofik pumping in 14 for the Griffins off the bench.

For the Hokies, Henson and senior guard Ron Bell paved the way in the first period, combining for 20 of Tech’s 38 halftime points.

After playing a 2-3-2 matching zone throughout most of the first half, Canisius went man for man in the second half, and at the 12 minute mark had cut the lead to three, 55-52.

Trailing by three and in possession of the ball, Peaks was whistled for charging, at which point the potential upset turned into the rout it should have been earlier.

The Hokies went to the inside game, and with Robinson, Henson, and Price doing most of the damage, Tech outscored the visitors 26-10 to put the game out of reach and send Canisius home with a 2-10 mark.

Robinson, Tech’s sophomore center, was all over the court in the second half, scoring all but six of his 23 points in the final period.

He teamed with Henson, also a sophomore, in sharing rebounding honors for the Hokies by grabbing nine errant shots, and rejected six Canisius attempts in playing all but two minutes of the game.

“Wayne did a good job tonight,” Moir praised, “especially in the second half. He was working real hard.”

After blasting the nets with 60 percent accuracy against West Virginia, the Hokies cooled down, hitting 46 percent against Canisius.

The Hokies were outrebounded in the game 45-38, but the ultimate factor in the game was Tech’s free throw accuracy.

Prior to the Canisius game, Tech’s percentage was a cool 63 percent, and Robinson’s even a cooler 58 percent.

“We’ve been taking some extra foul shots in practice,” admitted the 6-9 pivotman, “and I think that’s helped me find the right touch.

While Tech shot 25 times from the line, Canisius got only nine tries from the charity stripe, prompting first-year coach Mick Macarichuk to praise the Tech defense.

Tomorrow night the Hokies travel to Roanoke for a battle with intra-state rival Virginia in the Civic Center. The game is slated for a seven o’clock tip-off to accommodate regional television as part of an ACC doubleheader.

For the Hokies, the return to the Civic Center will be a chance to average their only loss, as they dropped a decision to Duke on the neutral court earlier in the season.

IT’S NO DANCE—Center Sam Foggin of the Hokies (second from left), a senior, and freshman forward Bernie Mull of Canisius are not really dancing. Foggin is scoring a layup.

BALL GETS AWAY—A Canisius scoring play goes wrong as a pass intended for junior college transfer Ron Peaks goes astray. Peaks (45), the nation’s 21st ranked scorer, kept the Golden Griffins in the game most of the way.

CRUNCH TIME—It’s crunch time under the Canisius basket as Tech’s Les Henson, partially obscured by guard Rene Stephens (21) of Canisius runs into Stephens while trying to score.