Virginia Tech Does Not Play Well, But Manages 85-70 Win Over Canisius

By MARK BULLOCK
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BLACKSBURG—Had it been anyone else, the outcome probably wouldn’t have been so favorable.

“I don’t know the reasons,” said a confused Charlie Moir, “but we didn’t play well tonight.”

The Hokies ran their record to 1-1 with their 85-70 win over Canisius University, but the win was anything but picture perfect.

“In the first half we didn’t play offense,” Moir said, “and in the second half we didn’t play defense. We were sluggish, and I don’t really know why.”

Perhaps the Hokies were looking past the Golden Griffins, now 2-10, to the Virginia Cavaliers, but the intensity was definitely lacking.

“We were very fortunate to lead by 14 at the half,” Moir admitted. “We caused them to turn the ball over quite a few times, but they did a good job of keeping us on defense in the first half.”

Indeed, the visitors were ball-control conscious in the first period, holding the ball for two or three minutes at a time before taking a shot.

“We had to play defense too long,” Moir said of the first 20 minutes. “They would hold onto the ball, and we’d come down, make one pass, and take a shot.”

Free throws, which have caused the Hokies problems all year, made the difference in Saturday’s game as the Hokies canned 21 of 23 from the charity stripe.

“We shot free throws better tonight than we have all year,” the coach attested. “It’s a confidence thing now. We’ve been missing so many, but we practice them a lot.”

Canisius, following a pattern now common to most Tech opponents, employed a 2-1-2 zone defense against the Hokies, and Moir was disappointed at the way his team attacked it offensively.

“We never took the ball through enough options,” he stated. “We didn’t get it back around the horn to the weak side enough. Some of our better plays are on that side, and we weren’t patient enough to get it back around there.”

Defensively, the Hokies surrendered 46 second half points, including 20 to Griffin forward Ron Peaks, the game’s high scorer with 26 points.

“We did a very poor job on defense in the second half,” Moir admitted, “and that concerns me.”

One bright spot in the Hokie victory was the play of sophomore center Wayne Robinson, top point getter for Tech with 23, all but six in the second half.

Robinson also blocked six Canisius shots, and shared rebounding honors with Les Henson, hauling down nine errant shots.

“Wayne did a good job in the second half,” Moir praised. “He scored 17 points and was working hard.”

Moir admitted the Hokies watched Virginia play Saturday on television, and thought that might have detracted from their performance Saturday night.

“I believe we’ll be ready to play the Cavs,” he said. “We’ll have to do a heck of a lot better job rebounding against them if we’re going to be successful.”

Although he doesn’t think one player will dominate play tomorrow night, Moir said the key to Tech’s hopes will be Cavalier freshman Jeff Lamp.

“He has a real good shooting touch,” Moir said of the highly-touted Lamp. “I’m most concerned with their inside play, and they have real good bench strength. This is going to be a big ballgame.”

Tomorrow’s rivalry is slated to begin at seven o’clock as a part of a televised ACC double header. Both teams have suffered one setback.

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