Tech Falters In First North-South
State Dominates Boards To Win Opener 83-68

By Mark Korak
Sports Editor

Constant substituting and an overwhelming rebounding advantage gave North Carolina St. a 20-point victory over Virginia Tech in the first game of the North-South Doubleheader in Charlotte, NC. Furman upset the University of North Carolina in the nightcap 89-83.

Although the game was much closer than the score indicates (Tech trailed by only four with 20 minutes left), the Wolfpack controlled the second half on their home floor and strength and experience allowed them to pull ahead.

They dominated us on the boards and intimidated us inside,” said Coach Charlie Moir. “We didn’t take the ball up strong inside and took some questionable shots.”

It was Tech’s defense against State’s second-half rebounding in the first half as the Wolfpack grabbed 23 rebounds to the Hokies’ 13, while Tech caused 14 turnovers and gave up only 6. The Hokies led 38-37 at the half.

But strength in large numbers overcame quickness in small numbers in the end. “They just substituted so much, it takes its toll,” Wayne Robinson, Tech’s 6-9 center, said. Everytime I turned around, I saw a new big man.”

The Wolfpack had 7 men with 20 or more minutes of playing time compared to Tech, which had 5 players in for 20 or more minutes. Five of State’s seven also hit in double figures while Tech had just two.

The Hokies trailed most of the first half, but gained as much as a four-point lead with three minutes left.

They had a chance to keep at least a three-point lead going into the locker room, but Robinson’s 15-foot jumper with 30 on the clock gave the Wolfpack their chance to pull it to one.

State quickly regained the lead at the outset of the second half, and never trailed again.

“After the first few minutes of the second half, we were just putting the ball down court instead of getting our break going,” Moir said.

Ron Bell, who, along with Les Henson led the Hokies in scoring with 15 and 21 points respectively, agreed.

“Rebounding was the difference. They hit the boards pretty hard, especially on the offensive end, and we didn’t break on them,” he said.

State’s lead circled around the one to five point range until 6:21. Leading 64-62, State outscored the Hokies 19-6 through the end of the game. Tony Warren got 11 of his 13 second-half points during that stretch to finish with 15 points for the game.

“We were overplaying them in the last few minutes when we were down by four or five, and they probably could have had some backdoor layups, but they just decided to hold the ball and shoot foul shots,” Henson said.

Moor’s team had a chance to cut it to one in the first period against South Carolina.

They shot only 28.9 percent from the floor for a game total of 35.6 percent.

Meanwhile the Wolfpack was shooting 50 percent in the second period to finish at 49 percent on the game.

The capacity crowd of 11,666 in the Charlotte Coliseum saw the Pack defeat the Hokies for the 28th time in 35 tries.

Furman beat No. 3 ranked North Carolina after trailing by as many as 14 points midway through the second half. It was Furman’s first victory in the North-South Classic in four years.

Les Henson scored his jersey number in both contests.

(Staff Photo by Colin Power)

UNC Bounces Back As Hokies Lose 2nd Straight

By Mark Korak
Sports Editor

Virginia Tech’s overplaying defense cost them five early backdoor layups, and the offense couldn’t maintain the same pace, as the Hokies lost their second game in a row 101-88 to the University of North Carolina Saturday night.

Furman got their second upset in two nights, 68-67 over North Carolina State.

The Tar Heels’ Mike O’Koren, sophomore forward, had four of those first layups and went on to hit 10 of 11 from the field and 11 of 13 at the line for 31 points on the night.

“They were ready to play and we weren’t. We scored enough points to win, but gave up too many layups,” O’Koren said.

“Offensively we were moving the ball well, better than against State, but the defense just wasn’t there,” Moir said.

The Tar Heels wanted no time in extending their first half lead on five more layups and three-point shots. They shot 47 percent from the field and 43 percent from the free-throw line.

“Defensively they were a bit better than in the first half,” Moir said.

O’Koren lead the team with 47 points, followed by teammate John Hillenbrand, who responded with 8 points and 6 rebounds in 15 minutes playing time.

Hillenbrand was the only one out there checking out like they should. Overall we did a poor job of that,” Moir said.

Tech was again led by Les Henson and Ron Bell in scoring 21 and 18 points respectively. It was those two, along with Hillenbrand.

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