Money game tonight

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The last time these two clubs met three times was 20 years ago. Virginia beat Tech two out of three in 1956. The only other time it happened was in 1904 when the Cavaliers swept by Tech all three times.

Tech might enter the game without its top gun. Duke Thorpe sat out the second half Wednesday night with an ice pack on his knee. And while a doctor assures the muscular senior forward he could probably play, Moir wondered:

"I'm convinced he won't be able to go. But if he's able, he'll go. We need him," said Moir.

The Tech coach isn't certain just whom he'll start if Thorpe is unable to answer the call.

"It would be hard to go with (Les) Benson and Thiemen against Virginia. So I'll probably start either (Sam) Foggins or (Wayne) Robinson.

That's for height because Robinson and Foggins are both in the 6-4 category. It's likely Thiemen will start in either case as Moir will be looking for more clutch plays like the one that accounted for the winning points.

"'Was that the winning basket?'" asked Thiemen, who didn't believe he had actually sewed up the Gobblers' sixth win in three starts.

It wasn't an easy shot. Thiemen ducked under one man and just beat another for the bucket.

"It was kind of instinct," he said. "I didn't think I'd get it over one of their big guys.

The reason it stood up was because of some defensive heroics by Marshall Ashford. The Tech guard blocked a shot attempt by Richmond scoring leader Kevin Fullman (19 points) and then stole a pass near the end of regulation time.

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Gobblers, Cavaliers in final

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moments later that was intended for the Spiders' senior guard.

"I've been getting a lot of criticism for my defense," said Ashford. "People have been telling me about it, so I tried to work a little harder. I paid off tonight."

Tech's top scorer was Ernest Wanley, a 6-11 senior. He had 13 points and nine rebounds, but foul trouble slowed him up the last six minutes to where he was hardly a factor.

Virginia, coming back after a 22-day layoff, looked ragged most of the time against VCU's Zone defense.

The Cavaliers actually won the game in a span starting with 4:22 left in the first half and lasting five minutes into the final stanza.

In that time, Virginia outscored the Rams 17-5 and try as it might, VCU just couldn't come close enough to mount a strong comeback.

The game was a positive factor in that a bothersome knee for Virginia center Oils Pickett checked out O.K. as the 6-11 sophomore scored 10 points.

Billy Langlois was Virginia's leader as he fired in 21 points and was the only consistent shooter for the Cavs from the outside.

Phil Thiemen
Winning Tech basket

"We knew they would be tough against us," said Langlois, "so we practiced against it a lot this week. We added a couple of new wrinkles. I think we got a lot of good shots and we were more aggressive.

With the layoff, it was kind of like starting the season again. We had the jitters like we did against Roosevelt (when Virginia fell behind by seven points early in the season opener)."

The Cavaliers aren't thinking too much about their last meeting against Tech here. But the Gobblers won 64-49 last winter as they gave the eventual Atlantic Coast Conference tournament champs their worst defeat of the year.