Duke strong, Tech bored

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BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech's Duke Thorpe checked out O.K here Wednesday night, but the Gobblers' basketball team suffered from a case of the in-between-game blues.

Thorpe scored 18 points to prove beyond a doubt his knee injury suffered last week against Richmond is a thing of the past.

And Tech's 96-71 win over Texas Wesleyan was impressive enough when listing the scores of college games.

But the ingredients that made up Tech's win might have been dragged out of the slop. It was to be expected, though, as Tech was coming off a big win against Virginia and was looking to Saturday's important trip to St. Bonaventure.

A repeat, however, might make Tech a terminal case.

"They knew they played a damned bad first half," said Tech Coach Charlie Moir, whose team led the upstarts from the Lone Star State by 44-37 at intermission.

"You could hear a pin drop in the locker room. They didn't know what was coming."

"Coach Moir wasn't that upset," said senior Phil Thieneman, who supported roommate Thorpe with 16 points.

"But he let us know that we didn't let Virginia have the ball inside, so why let this team have it inside."

Thorpe and most Tech players weren't that upset over the erratic play. Even Moir failed to show more than a trace of anger with his Tech team which fired up 102 shots and hit only 40 times.

"We'll have a good practice and be ready for St. Bonaventure," Thieneman predicted.

"It seems like we play according to the competition. Well, most of the time except for maybe Alabama (Tech lost 108-78)."

Tech Guard Marshall Ashford admitted the team was taking the game rather lightly. "It seems as if the atmosphere just wasn't right," said the sophomore backcourt performer.

The game was valuable though in that Tech's reserves played about half the contest. The second five, playing as a unit, didn't distinguish itself in the first half.

But in the final 20 minutes, freshmen Wayne Robinson, Les Henson, and Chris Scott along with Sam Foggins and Ron Edwards actually put the game away for Tech.

Robinson, who scored all eight of his points in the last half, said he might have played better against Virginia when he didn't score a point.

Ashford and Robinson are two Tech players who haven't been to St. Bonaven-

ure. Tech has split two games there where the homecourt advantage is considered to be one of the biggest in college basketball.

"I know it's tough to win up there," said Ashford, "but we're going to play the best we can. We hope to be 9-3 after that game. We'll be up for the game. It's a turning point of the season."

Robinson, who is not usually a wide-eyed freshman, laughs about his new experiences on the road this year.

"I've heard a lot about St. Bonaventure," he said, with a grin on his face.

Asked if St. Bonaventure might not be worse than West Virginia, where a wild Mountaineer runs around firing a gun to incite the crowd, Robinson's smile widened.

"I don't know if it's more fantastic than West Virginia. That was something up there," he said.

He might have added that the Hokies had better be more fantastic than they were against Wesleyan if they hope to beat the Bonnies. They certainly won't get 102 chances to be wrong a greater percentage of time than usual.

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TEXAS WESLEYAN
fg-fga ft-fta reb pf tot
Greene 2-8 0-0 6 3 4 9
Green 3-9 0-0 9 5 6 14
Wayman 3-5 0-0 5 4 1 10
Kliever 6-20 5-6 5 2 7 27
Webb 5-20 5-10 2 3 15
Sublet 3-6 0-0 1 1 6
Prater 1-2 0-0 1 1 4
Fenoglio 0-1 0-0 1 1 2
Johnson 0-1 0-0 1 0 2
Becker 1-1 0-0 0 0 2
Welburn 0-0 0-0 0 0 0
Totals: 28-75 15-24 41 21 71

VIRGINIA TECH
fg-fga ft-fta reb pf tot
Thorpe 7-12 4-5 13 2 18
Thieneman 8-15 4-5 10 2 16
Wansley 1-7 1-2 3 2 2
Ashford 3-15 1-2 1 1 5
Bell 4-12 2-2 8 2 10
Edwards 3-8 0-0 4 1 6
Scott 2-8 0-1 1 2 4
Henson 2-6 3-3 6 4 7
Robinson 2-5 2-2 10 0 8
Foggins 3-10 0-0 0 0 3
Greene 0-0 0-0 0 0 0
Byers 0-1 0-0 0 0 0
Helgeson 0-0 0-0 0 0 0
Merriman 1-7 0-0 0 0 2
Totals: 40-102 16-20 64 22 96

Halftime Score: 44-37, Tech.
Attendance: 5,200.