Billy Langlosh Vows To Ring Hokies' Bell

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For Ron Bell, the statement was not born out of resentment, nor was it intended to raise anybody's ire. It was simply the best reason he could give for Virginia Tech beating Virginia in the first meeting between the two teams.

"We felt (Bobby) Stokes was the only guy who could handle the ball that well," the Hokies' guard was quoted as saying following Tech's 65-50 victory in the finals of the Richmond Times-Dispatch Invitational basketball tournament.

"By putting pressure on the other guys," he continued, "our strategy was to force a lot of turnovers."

With the clubs scheduled to meet for the second time at the Hampton Roads Coliseum tonight at 8 p.m., UVA guard Billy Langlosh has vowed that Bell's words will come back to haunt him.

"If we win, I'm really going to do something drastic after the game," said Langlosh after the Cavs' 71-68 loss to William and Mary Monday night, "and you can quote me.

Would he say something to Bell, Langlosh was asked?

"More than that," was his reply. Actually, the comments almost seemed normal coming from Langlosh, whose petulance has been displayed more than once during his college career.

Indeed, Langlosh engaged in a shoving match with Duke's Kenny Young at one point last year, remarking later in the locker room, "I should have decked him on the spot."

Virginia won that game, which contradicts the theory that Langlosh was just being a sore loser following the loss to the Indians.

More than likely, Langlosh does not remember too kindly the embarrassment Bell and backcourt mate Marshall Ashford administered to the Cavaliers' guards two weeks ago.

Bell and Ashford combined for 38 points in that game, with the latter gaining MVP honors for the tournament. At the same time, Langlosh finished with seven points while the other starter, Stokes, did not make a shot all evening.

Reached in Hampton, Bell said he was surprised that Langlosh felt the way he did. "Marshall was on him; I didn't come into contact with Langlosh," said the junior guard. "We didn't say anything. There were no exchanges or anything."

"I still really believe what I said before (about Stokes being Virginia's only ballhandler)," Bell continued. "I think that was the key to our win in the first game; we were able to put the pressure on them."

It was nothing Virginia did, Bell said, that caused his 19-point scoring outburst against the Cavaliers. "I think I can do it against anybody," he said. "My shots just haven't been falling against the other teams."

After Saturday night's loss to St. Bonaventure, the Hokies took a bus from Blacksburg to Hampton Tuesday, stopping along the way to practice at Benedictine High School in Richmond, the alma mater of first-year forward Les Henson.

"It was kind of weird," said Bell. "One minute we were asleep on the bus and the next minute we were practicing. Then we were on the bus again.

"The practice started slowly," Bell confessed, "but we finally got into it after a while."

Sales for the game have proceeded in much the same manner, as nearly 3,000 tickets remained available less than 24 hours before tipoff.