Virginia Gets Revenge Over Tech

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HAMPTON—Billy Langlosh draped an orange and blue scarf around his neck and prepared for the freezing temperatures about to greet him outside of Hampton Roads Coliseum Wednesday night.

But Langlosh didn’t care how cold it was outside. He felt he had proved a point inside the coliseum by helping the University of Virginia even the count against Virginia Tech, 55-50 in the second encounter between the two state rivals.

The Cavalier guard broke a 49-49 tie with a pair of free throws at 1:30 mark to put Virginia in the lead to stay, upping the Hokies’ record to 6-3 on the season. Tech is now 8-4.

Earlier in the week Langlosh had vowed to beat Tech after he and other members of the UVa backcourt were reminded of the first meeting between the two schools. Tech won that one 65-60 in the finals of the Inaugural Richmond Times Dispatch Tournament two weeks ago.

Tech’s strategy in that victory, revealed Gobbler Guard Ron Bell, was to pressure Langlosh and other guards to force turnovers.

Obviously that strategy worked, since Langlosh only scored seven points in that game and back court teammate, Robert Stokes, failed to make a shot the entire evening.

Meanwhile Bell and Tech’s other starting guard, Marshall Ashford, pumped in 30 points in a combined effort.

Although Langlosh and Stokes weren’t that effective from the field (only two of 10 together Wednesday night), both were lethal from the free throw line (eight of 10). Langlosh was careful not to commit a turnover the entire game. Bell’s statements made him more determined.

“Not so much defensively, but rather offensively and ball handling,” said the Cavalier guard.

“Saying that our guards can’t handle the ball was ridiculous. For myself, I’m sure he’ll admit it if he was in the game at all.”

Virginia’s guard play was not that overwhelming, but was a key in the Cavaliers sinking 20 of their last 21 free throws down the stretch.

With Tech down 43-37 and 8:32 left to play, Virginia’s ailing center Marc Iavarone (suffering from the flu), fouled out, fouled out by hacking Tech’s Sam Foggins on the layup. Foggins, playing for Ernest Wansley, one of four Tech players in foul trouble, cut it to 43-40 but missed the bonus shot.

Then Virginia built its largest lead of the game at 47-40 on a pair of charity tosses by center Otis Fulton and jumper by Mike Owens.

UVa cashed in at the free throw line again, this time with Steve Castillan hitting two for a 49-41 advantage and 6:47 to go.

But the Gobblers came back and scored eight straight answers points on a steal under the basket by Ashford, a Les Henson tap, and two driving layups by Bell, knotting the score at 49 all with only 1:14 showing.

Virginia went into its four corner offense forcing Tech to foul Langlosh. He hit both free throws.

Then perhaps the crucial blow. Tech turned the ball over its next time up the floor when Duke Thorpe forced a pass inside to Wansley who couldn’t handle it.

Naturally, Virginia went into the stall again. This time it was Ashford who fouled out, sending Stokes to the line. He hit both shots for a 53-49 margin.

With only 31 seconds left, Bell’s shot caromed off the backboard and Langlosh came away with the rebound, was fouled and went to the line again, sinking both shots.

“At the end of the game I kind of like to take over, to take charge,” said Langlosh.

The Cavaliers built a 13-6 lead early in the game, but Tech deadlocked it at 14 all on a fast break layup by Ashford.

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VIRGINIA’S MIKE OWENS (45) TRIES TO LOCATE LOST BALL

Tech’s Ernest Wansley (50) And UVa’s Billy Langlosh Close In On Elusive Sphere

★ Virginia

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Virginia’s Fulton and Iavarone all ready bench-ridden with foul trouble, Ashford and Bell quickly picked up three personals.

The score was tied at 19-19 before the Hokies grabbed their first lead of the first half at 21-19 on a pair of free throws by Wansley. The score was tied at 21 all at the half, on reserve Center Ed Shelock’s layup. His field goal ended a nine minute drought for the Cavaliers who went that span without making a shot from the floor, relying on free throws.

Tech came back fired up and built its biggest lead of the game at 27-23 at the 17:15 mark on free throws by Ashford and a jumper by Bell.

However, Wansley, Ashford and Bell all picked up their fourth personal foul within three minutes, with Virginia diminishing a three point Tech lead into a 30-24 Cavalier advantage on an Iavarone layup with 12 minutes left to play.

Iavarone scored four more quick ones to insure a 40-35 Cavalier lead heading into the final 10 minutes of play.

The trio of Tech starters returned to the lineup with just under seven minutes to play and rallied for a 49-49 last ditch effort.

But with Tech’s quick guards out of the game and Virginia collapsing inside on defense, the Hokies were forced to play Virginia’s deliberate tempo, something Tech cannot do and win.

Langlosh, who stated he was going to do something drastic to Bell at the end of the game, only taught the Tech guard a bit the final time at the free throw. Both teams shot horribly from the field. Tech, which shot only 43 times and hit only 15, turned in an icy 34 percent. Virginia was even more frigid, hitting only 13 to 45 for 29 percent.

The rebounding was even with Tech having a slight 35-33 edge.

Only Bell, who hit five of 11 field goal attempts, was in double figures for the Hokies. He had 10 points. Ashford, who fouled out, and Foggins, who played only 17 minutes, had eight points apiece.

Thorpe, Tech’s leading scorer on the season, handholder of a 17.3 average, along with forward teammate Phil Thiesman, the Gobblers’ second leading scorer, with an 11.5 average, only had eight points between them.