Gobblers Snap Streak; Down Jacksonville, 74-68

From Staff and Wire Reports
Two quick bursts of shooting skill in the waning minutes of both halves helped Virginia Tech to a 74-68 win over Jacksonville University in Florida Saturday night.

The Hokies, trailing 29-28 in the final minute of the opening period, outscored the Dolphins 6-0 on a layup by Duke Thorpe and two jumpers by Ron Bell for a 31-28 lead at intermission that must have inspired Coach Charlie Moir's squad. "This was a crucial game for us," admitted the coach, "because we had lost two games in a row."

The Hokies dropped two road matches last week to St. Bonaventure and the University of Virginia before whipping Jacksonville for Tech's second win of the season in unfriendly quarters.

The Hokies came out after the half break like a squad tuned for nothing but success against the taller Dolphins.

Jacksonville managed to hang close with Tech until Bell fired in a jumper at 18:34 to give the Gobblers a 46-38 lead. Center Ernest Wansley highlighted a spurt that gave his squad a 62-49 spread with 4:04 remaining.

"We played well and with patience," said Moir. "We could have broken it open earlier if we had shot a little better. But we played hard and for the most part we played good defense."

Both squads shot 50 per cent from the floor with Tech actually winning the match from the free throw line. In the last 3:39 of the game Jacksonville sent the Hokies to the line for 15 shots.

Having hit only four of 11 free throws in the first 36 minutes Tech proceeded to make 12 of its last 15 attempts. Guard Marshall Ashford hit eight free passes in as many tries for his night's ten points. Bell popped four of six tosses en route to a 19.

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JACKSONVILLE'S JAMES RAY FIRES AWAY
Hokie Players Stand Around And Watch Action