Strong Second Half Fails As Virginia Tech Falls To ORU 77-70

By Bill Mason
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BLACKSBURG—Missed shots and opportunities and spotty defensive play hurt Virginia Tech, which battled back from a 13-point deficit in the second half, but wound up losing to the Titans of Oral Roberts U. 77-70 Monday night before television cameras and a less than capacity crowd at Cassell Coliseum.

Oral Roberts took an early 60-lead on two jump shots by Anthony Roberts and one by Alvin Scott as the game began.

The game was physical and both Tech's Ernest Wansley and ORU's Robert acumulated three personals and spent some time on the bench.

With Roberts temporarily out of the game, ORU lost nothing in scoring efficiency nor did Tech benefit offensively.

Senior Arnold Dugger of Bronx, N.Y. took up the slack with ten first half points, Tech stumbled and ORU raced to a 39-26 halftime lead.

Tech raced back into second half with faster, more alert play on offense and defense. The Hokies beampered confidence with Wansley back in the lineup and all five starters had a hand in the uprising.

A ten point outburst from guard Marshall Ashford from 12:23 to 9:40 was climaxed by his fast break dunk at that time, giving Tech a 57-56 lead and bringing a cheering crowd of 5,500 to their feet.

Tech hit on a chilly 32% on field goal attempts in the first half but picked it up to 50% in the second 20 minutes. This was no match for ORU's 57% in the first half and 51% in the second half. The Hokies held a 32-28 rebounding edge.

Senior forward Duke Thorpe and junior guard Ronnie Bell tied for Hokie high with 19 points apiece and Ashford came through with 16.

The summary:

The Hokies season record dipped to 9-6 with Fairleigh-Dickinson next on the schedule in a home game Saturday night. Tech takes to the road for a game next Wednesday at Huntington, W.Va. against Marshall's Thundering Herd.

GO, HOKIES!—An enthusiastic, happy crowd jumps in its feet after Marshall Ashford's dunk shot to cheer their team on in the second half comeback against Oral Roberts.