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Sports Writer

Although by no means a basketball power, Farleigh Dickinson presented Virginia Tech with an even easier time than expected Saturday night in Cassell Coliseum as the Hokies emerged with a 78-56 rout of the Knights.

"It was a lot easier game than I thought it would be," said Tech Coach Charlie Moir. "We needed a game like this."

Easily, it turned out as Tech recorded its tenth win of the year against six losses before a sparse crowd of 6,000. Twelve Tech players saw action, with ten scoring, four in double-figures.

Farleigh Dickinson stayed close to Tech for the first few minutes of play, taking advantage of some sloppy Hokie board work. Redonia Red Duck and Jay Jorgenson got loose for easy Knight layups as each team traded baskets for the first six minutes of play.

But a 14-1 tie was the closest the Knights were to get the rest of the evening. Moments later, with Tech leading 23-14, Farleigh Dickinson lost its leading scorer and team leader Jorgenson to a knee injury. Jorgenson suffered a ligament tear to his right knee from a foul shot under the basket.

Tech then made some defensive adjustments, switching from the zone press it had started the game with, to a standard man-to-man. The result was a number of breakdown layups and a 41-30 Tech halftime lead.

"We were not as aggressive enough to play a zone press," said Moir. "We're just not quick enough. All five players need to be extremely quick and we were just playing passively. So we went to a man-to-man."

The press was designed to upset the Knight game plan. "They walk the ball up a lot," said Moir. "We wanted to press to speed up the tempo on them. I think the press worked well.

Guard Marshall Ashford agreed, "They play a slow down type of game which really kind of puts you to sleep. They were staying back, so we went and put straight pressure on the ball. We also used the press as an offensive weapon."

Despite the success of the press late in the first half, Moir was still not satisfied with the defensive effort.

"We tended to relax on defense," said Moir. "We were fortunate in the first half to have just blocked two or three seemingly unmolested layups. We're going to have to go back to fundamentals and be more hard-nosed and aggressive."

Ashford, a 6-2 guard, took advantage of the Knights' zone defense hitting on long jumpers to pace the Hokies in the first half. The zone was a surprise to Moir. "They rarely play a zone defense. Coach LoBallo is a strict man-to-man coach."

The second half was all Tech as a mad swarming Hokie defense continually resulted in Gobbler breakaways. The Knights scored only four points in the first six minutes of the second half as Tech raced to a 55-34 lead.

Prior to that point on the game became little more than a scrimmage. Guard Ron Bell led the Hokie attack with 21 points. Bell got a little better penetration and used a little better judgement than he did against Oral Roberts," said Moir.

Meanwhile, losing coach Al LoBallo was not pleased with the contest. "I just got my best guard (Howard Wilson) and my best player (Jorgenson) hurt and I just hope we can get out of here alive," said LoBallo. "Moir did what he had to do for his team and he was successful."

Moir thought his use of many players could help the Hokies in the future. "We played a lot better earlier in the season when we were able to substitute freely. It helps the team be confident and in good for morale."

Ashford thought the game might get the Hokies back on the winning track. "We're beginning to get our confidence back after tonight," said the guard. "I hope it'll help straighten things out."

"I thought we played ragged at times and well at times," said Moir in summing up his team's performance. "We just played tight and conservative which comes from losing a few ball games. We weren't tense and relaxed like I would have liked. We needed a game like this."

Sherman Edmonds paced the Falcons with 14 points. Redonia Duck added ten and Steve Mawinski nine for the Knights.

Bell led Hokie scorers with 21, followed by Phil Thienneman with 15, Ashford with 13, and Sam Foggin with 10.

FDU'S JORGENSEN
Injured Badly

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