Tech's Charlie Moir and Wake's Carl Tacy: Round 2

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The last time Virginia Tech Coach Charley Moir and Wake Forest Coach Carl Tacy met in basketball, it wasn't on a court.

The two clashed in an interview room following the 1972 season. The prize wasn't a win, but rather a job. Namely the job of becoming Wake Forest's head basketball coach.

Tacy, then the coach at Marshall, won that first battle over Moir, then the national college division coach of the year after leading Roanoke to the 1972 national championship.

Tonight the two will face each other on a different ground. This time Moir's Tech team plays the nationally ranked Deacons, regarded as the Atlantic Coast Conference's best team, at Winston-Salem.

No one ever knew how Wake Forest decided on Tacy over Moir for its coach— not that the decision was a bad one. But at the time there were some bitter feelings from up north too.

Some of Moir's friends insisted Tacy had promised Wake could be among the very best teams in the ACC in two or three years while Moir had said it would take five.

"That was a lot of crap," snarled Tacy. "I don't know that I could lay down any timetable. I try to do what I can and if that isn't enough, too bad.

"I really am not going to get into that. Some things were said about what I told them (the committee). They were at the false time and I don't know that I made any promises."

Moir admits he told Wake it would take five for the Deacons to be No. 1—an honest appraisal on his part that supporters feel cost him the job. "I'll say this for Carl," Moir declared, "he's done a helluva job. Everything that I heard about what he promised was hearsay. I know he's made steady progress."

When Moir lost that job, he admits he was bitter. "But," he added, "going to Tulane was a great experience and Tech was always a job I wanted.

"As I look back, I'm just as happy that I didn't get the Wake job. Things turned out well for me and also for Wake."

Moir's first contact came with Tacy when Charlie was an assistant at Tech and the Wake coach was at Pulaski.

However, Moir never recruited any of Tacy's players at either Pulaski or Ferrum College, where the Deacons' boss went before taking the Marshall job.

"I used to get the feeling that Wake trailed the other three teams (Duke, N.C. State and North Carolina) in the Big Four," Moir said. "I don't get that feeling any more. Especially since we have to play them. They have a super team and deserve to be where they are."

Wake is 25-3 and holds a lead over North Carolina by a game in the torrid ACC race. The Deacons' most recent effort, however, was a two-point win over Davidson on a shot at the buzzer.

Tacy, though, won't talk about a possible slump for the Deacons because of their struggle with Davidson, the sixth place team in the Southern Conference.

"I don't make any apologies for a win. If it's close, it's close. I know what the players can do. I hope they can answer the call in the tougher games," Tacy said.

While Virginia Tech is at Wake, VMI will be less than two hours away closing their Southern Conference season at Appalachian State.

The Keydets will also be trying to start a new win streak after having a 21-game string cut off in a loss at William and Mary Wednesday night.

The Keydets can control their destiny in the upcoming Southern Conference tournament. VMI, however, is more likely to meet the winner of Appalachian-East Carolina in its first SC tournament game. But a Keydet loss means William and Mary should finish fourth and VMI will have to play either the Indians or East Carolina in the semis.

Roanoke College, 4-20, closes its home season against Old Dominion at the Salem-Roanoke County Civic Center. The game will be the last of a quadrupleheader that starts at 3 when National Business College faces Bluefield College.

Following will be a game between the junior varsity clubs of William Fleming and Blackwater at 5 and a game featuring Fleming and Blacksburg varsities at 6:30. The Roanoke game is at 8.

"We know what Old Dominion is like," said Roanoke Coach Mel Hankinson.

"Rightly, they've voted No. 1 or No. 2 in the state.

If the Maroons lose, it will be the most losses in the history of the program and assure the school of it's worst record ever. The previous low was last year's 6-20 finish.

Another interesting game sends Richmond to William and Mary. The Spiders nearly upset VMI a week ago tonight in Lexington, before fading at the end.

There are two Southern Conference games scheduled. East Carolina visits The Citadel while Davidson is at Furman.

Two ACC games, with little bearing on the title, are set. Duke visits Maryland in the afternoon television game while Clemson is at N.C. State tonight. Virginia is at home Sunday afternoon against North Carolina in a nationally televised game.

Fourth-rank of Washington and Lee closes its regular season at Bridgewater where the Generals will rank as a heavy favorite.