Marquette Foils Tech Upset Bid

By JIM MCDONALD
Sports Writer

Tech guard Marshall Ashford

was able to play good defense on Lee the entire game. But even when the All-American candidate missed a shot he seemed always to be in the thick of the scramble for the rebound, either getting it or tapping the ball to a teammate as often as not. "Lee's penetration definitely hurt us," Hokie' forward Phil Thienneman said after the game in his team's locker room. "It wasn't Marshall's fault though. We tried to help him out but whenever we did Lee would drop the ball off to someone else who would score."

"I don't know if a man to man right defense to play against him. Maybe we should have went to a zone," Thienneman added.

Lee agreed that Ashford did a good job on defense. "Ashford was very tough offensively and defensively. He's the quickest defensive guard I've had to face all season," Lee said. Marquette was not able to knock him out of bounds.

"A good ballplayer now as a sophomore. He's gonna be a hell of a player by the time he's a senior." Thienneman added.

The win upset Marquette's record to 9-4 while Virginia Tech closed its season at 19-9. The loss apparently ended the Hokies' slim hopes of receiving an NIT bid, although if it was up to Marquette they'd be invited. "Virginia Tech is well coached and well prepared. At the end their shots just didn't fall," he said. "I would like to see them set a post-season tournament bid, at least to the NIT."

The victory kept alive the Warriors' chances of an NCAA at-large bid as an independent. They lost three consecutive games last week at home to Detroit, DePaul and Wichita State. However, they have bounced back with two wins now, and have Tulane left to play.

The entire game was close. The Hokies entered the second half trailing 34-33. Taking the initiative Marquette opened the period with four quick points on layups by Lee and the stage was set. Virginia Tech never trailed by more than seven but was also never able to come closer than one point.

The Hokies scored four straight points on a basket by Duke Thorpe and two free throws by Phil Thienneman to make the score 57-56, but the Warriors were able to keep the momentum when Mcguire wisely called time out.

Virginia Tech had another opportunity when Marquette center Jerome Whitehead fouled out with 6:50 to play. Whitehead had been dominating the boards and scoring some key baskets, opening up the Tech middle.

"I thought we could take the lead when Whitehead went out," Hokies' forward Duke Thorpe said. "He's a main cog on their team."

Thienneman said the Hokies had their last real opportunity with 2:28 remaining and Sam Fugger at the foul line for two shots. Fugger made the first and missed the second which went out of bounds to the Warriors.

In the next minute Marquette outscored the Hokies 6-1 and for See MARQUETTE, Pg. 12

AN UNIDENTIFIED MARQUETTE PLAYER FALLS BACKWARDS WHILE AT (RIGHT) PHIL THIENNEMAN (44) AND BO ELLIS (33) EYE BALL

Marquette Led The Hokies At The Half And Went On To Win 75-70 In Tech's Finale

Marquette

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all intents and purposes the game was on ice.

Thienneman made a three point play to light things up in the last 36 seconds, but Lee and Bernard Tone combined for four points to remove any lingering doubts as to who the winner was.

The Warriors trailed almost the entire first half before rallyng from a six point deficit to take a 20-27 lead on a jump shot by their other All American hopeful Bo Ellis with 2:43 left before intermission.

"I'm disappointed by the loss. The kids played hard," Virginia Tech Coach Charlie Moir said in a post-game press conference. "They beat us on the boards badly and we fouled up a lot of easy fast break opportunities and gave them a lot of easy shots."

"Marquette is a real good ball club. They're going to be tough to beat themselves," he added.

Following Lee in the scoring for the Warriors were Ellis with 18 points and Whitehead with 15. Thienneman added 12 points for the Hokies and was followed by Thorpe and guard Ron Bell who added 16 and 10 points respectively.

Thienneman, who entered the contest ranked second in the nation in free throw shooting, made a run at the national title, making seven of seven charity tosses. The outcome of his effort won't be known until the final statistics are tabulated sometime next week.

"I have never heard such loud fans. Normally the spectators don't bother me," he said. "But they were the loudest I've ever heard. It was really difficult for me to concentrate on my last two free throws. I'm surprised I made them."

Although you would never be able to tell by his performance, Lee had a tough time遏制住自己的\

act together.

"I didn't feel right at first," he said. Then during a timeout with about seven minutes left to play Coach McGuire told Moir it was time to get moving and that when I started playing Lee made a strong impression.

"Lee is a heck of a player," Moir said. "He's a good shooter.