Gobblers Defeat OSU

DAILY PROGRESS

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Basketball Coach Don Devoe of Virginia Tech's National Invitation Tournament champion Gobblers says he told Bobby Stevens at halftime "he had to establish himself as a point-shooter" against Ohio State's Buckeyes.

Stevens, whose final-buzzer shot won the NIT crown for the Gobblers last spring in overtime over Notre Dame, did just that Monday night—and Tech evened its season record at 2-2 with a 68-67 victory that dropped Ohio State to 2-3.

"When he finally hit two or three from the outside, it opened up the inside a little bit," said Devoe, who had seen his team overcome a 51-43 deficit midway the second half on an 8-2 spurt keyed by Stevens and Charlie Thomas.

Their eight points narrowed the gap to 53-51, Tech caught up at 57-57 with 3:53 left and Craig Lieder put the Gobblers in front at 60-57 with a three-point play 38 seconds later.

The Gobblers maintained their lead the rest of the way, although a layup with two seconds left by Jack Wolfe pulled the Buckeyes to within a point.

Tech hit only 37 per cent in the first half against Ohio State's zone defense, and that's when Devoe told Stevens to start shooting.

There were just two members of the top 20 in action. No. 9 Providence held off Niagara 78-74 and No. 20 Cincinnati suffered its first loss, 88-78 to Arizona State.

The Buckeyes held a 51-43 lead midway through the second half but Stevens and Charlie Thomas brought the Gobblers to a tie at 57, and Craig Lieder's three-point play with just over three minutes remaining put them on top for good. Jack Wolfe's layup with two seconds left cut Tech's final margin to one point.

Lieder finished with 16 points and Thomas 14. Gary Repella topped Ohio State with 12. Tech is now 2-2 and Ohio State is 2-3.

Marvin Barnes and freshman Bob Cooper scored 20 points apiece as Providence handed Niagara its first loss of the season. Barnes clinched the victory with a three-point play with just six seconds left.

Cincinnati, which lost for the first time in six outings, fell behind at the half and never seriously challenged Arizona State. Reserve Gary Jackson paced the Sun Devils with 21 points while Jesse Jemison netted 22 for the Bearcats.

In other top games, Duquesne beat Athletes in Action 88-76; Marshall trimmed North Carolina A&T 96-85; Creighton dumped Brigham Young 99-86; Rice downed Houston Baptist 93-89; Utah State defeated Colorado State 74-67; California topped Seattle 66-63; Portland shaded Santa Clara 88-84; and Nevada-Las Vegas trimmed Washington State 58-47.

VIRGINIA TECH (68)—Stevens 18, Lieder 16, Thomas 14, Frazier 6, McKee 4, Wade 8, Collins 2.

OHIO STATE (67)—Andreas 11, Jackson 9, Wolfe 8, Gerhardy 8, Repella 12, Wenner 6, Bolden 9, Brooks 2, Taylor 2.

Half time: Ohio State 32, VPI 29. A: 4,500