Tech Loses Again To Win Booby Prize

From Staff Dispatches

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The booby prize goes to Virginia Tech.

The Hokies have blundered their way into a meeting with the only college division basketball team in the All-College tournament after they lost 79-74 to Weber State here Friday in a consolation bracket game.

Tech now takes on Southwestern University of Texas, a fill-in team when the RCAA cancelled Southwestern Louisiana's season last spring for various violations.

Everyone assumed Southwestern would be playing in the first game Saturday which will be for seventh place. Tech just happens to be the team trying to escape as the only club with an 0-3 record. The two teams will meet at 2 p.m. (EST) Saturday and it's a sure thing the 15,200 seat Myiad, site of the tournament, won't be jumping with enthusiasm.

Tech displayed its same inconsistent play against Weber State as it did the night before with Houston. Only the Wildcats aren't Houston, so Tech didn't fall out of the game until the last few seconds.

Weber State had several nine-point leads in the second half, but it couldn't push the Hokies out of the contest. Finally, with freshman Duke Thorpe doing just about everything, Tech climbed back within three points at 75-72 with a minute left.

Tech got the ball after Weber's Willie Jackson missed the front part of a one-and-one free throw. It seemed the Hokies were destined for a miracle comeback, but Thorpe fired a long 20-footer that bounded harmlessly away into a Weber State player's arm. It signified the whole frustrating game.

"As far as consistency," said Tech Coach Don DeVoe, "this team hasn't come along as I have hoped."

"Duke made some big plays. But the last one was a typical example. We had called time out before a free throw and set it up for a jumper to Craig Lieder.

"They missed the free throw and we bring it down. Then we don't have the patience to wait. Duke's shot wasn't bad because he was open. But no one was in rebounding position and it wasn't the play we had planned."

But DeVoe wasn't unhappy with Thorpe. That would be unkind for the 6-5 forward scored eight points in the final four minutes to bring Tech back into the game. "Craig (Lieder) gets a rebound when we're four down, and throws it away. Kyle (McKee) walked once. And there were other plays," said DeVoe.

"As far as Duke is concerned, he got the ball and stuck it back up inside — something we've been hoping and praying for someone to do for a long time."

The Hokies, 3-5, who face a losing December, really lost the game in the first half. Tech controlled a 12-point lead at one time and with 6:55 left the Hokies were on top 30-21. From that point on, though, Weber State outscored Tech 20-7 for a four-point halftime lead.

Tech's shooting again didn't reach 40 per cent. The Gobblers connected on just 29 of 75 shots from the field for 39 per cent. They got 24 more shots than Weber State. In losing two games, Tech has now had 59 more shots than its opponents.

Craig Lieder again led Tech's scoring with 20 points and Ed Frazier chipped in with 15. Thrope finished with 13.

Tech also carried a 34-31 edge in rebounding against the bigger Wildcats, but Weber hit 28 of 51 shots for 55 per cent.

The Gobblers return home after Saturday's game and have two contests in Blacksburg next week against Eastern Kentucky on Thursday and St. Bonaventure on Saturday.

—BOB TEITLEBAUM

	fg-fga	ft-fta	reb	pf	tot
VA. TECH					
Frazier	6-15	3-5	4	2	15
Lieder	7-17	6-7	8	4	20
McKee	1-5	2-4	7	5	4
Sensibaugh	3-5	0-0	0	1	6
Stevens	2-10	2-2	2	5	6
Thomas	4-15	0-0	3	4	8
Thorpe	5-6	3-4	10	4	13
Wiggins	1-1	0-0	0	0	2
Fugate	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Collins	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals	29-75	16-22	34	26	74
WEBER STATE					
Devita	4-5	3-4	0	1	11
Dion	3-7	8-11	2	3	14
Fleming	6-12	3-4	3	3	15
Watts	2-2	0-0	2	4	4
DeWitt	2-5	2-2	6	3	6
Tousheck	0-3	2-2	5	3	2
Lewis	5-6	2-2	1	2	12
Jackson	2-4	1-3	4	4	5
Marg'ey	4-7	2-2	8	4	10
Totals	28-51	23-30	31	26	79

Halftime score: Weber State, 41-37.
Attendance: 3,500.