

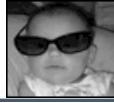
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### Delaney's 30 points propel Tech past Clemson

By [DARRYL SLATER](#)  
 Published: February 7, 2010

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#### Related Info

VIRGINIA TECH 70 CLEMSON 59  
 Next: Virginia Tech at N.C. State  
 Wednesday: 9 p.m., ESPNU

BLACKSBURG -- Malcolm Delaney's routine at the free throw line is simple but effective. He doesn't bounce the ball. Just gives it a quick spin. He doesn't take a lot of time. Just flicks his shot up. He doesn't even think about much of anything.

Delaney, Virginia Tech's junior point guard, is among the ACC's best from the line. Before yesterday's game against Clemson, he had made 85.2 percent of his free throws, which ranked third in the league.

That accuracy, teammate Jeff Allen's nimbleness and the Hokies' defense boosted them to a 70-59 win yesterday at Cassell Coliseum -- the most significant victory of their season because it was their first over a team ranked in the top 50 of the Ratings Percentage Index.

Come Selection Sunday, March 14, the NCAA tournament's selection committee will award at-large bids based largely on quality wins.

Yesterday should be one for Tech, which is 5-3 in the ACC, 18-4 overall, at the midpoint of its conference schedule. The Tigers yesterday were ranked 32nd in the RPI, Tech 67th.

"It's only a good win if we continue to win," Hokies coach Seth Greenberg said.

The Hokies were 0-2 this season against top-50 RPI teams. The previous two seasons, they were a combined 3-16, which is why they missed the tournament both years.

While the win could look good on Selection Sunday, it wasn't exactly visually appealing. Tech shot 15 of 49 and made just four of its first 29 shots.

Delaney, who scored 30 points, missed his first nine shots, made his final five and, most important, hit 20 of 23 free throws, tying a school record for most made free throws in a game; Doreno Hudson had 20 last month against Seton Hall. All told, the Hokies made 38 of 46 free throws.

The Hokies held Clemson (4-5, 16-7) to 30.6 percent shooting. The Tigers' leading scorer, Trevor Booker, was a non-factor because of foul trouble, scoring seven points, on 2-of-10 shooting, in 23 minutes. Last season, he scored 21 points in both of Clemson's games against Tech.

"We kind of win ugly games," Delaney said. "That's our team. We're not the best scoring team. But we're a scrappy team, and that's what type of games we like playing."

They did it just two days after beating North Carolina at home, and against a Clemson team that last played Sunday. The short layoff probably contributed to the slow offensive start -- the Hokies missed their first nine shots -- but they overcame it in the second half because of Delaney and Allen.

With 13:14 left, Booker guarded Delaney as he held the ball behind the 3-point line. Delaney remembered that, earlier in the game, Booker charged at him and tried to block a 3. Delaney told himself he'd head-fake Booker the next time. When he did it, Booker bit. Delaney leaned in for the shot and drew Booker's fourth foul. "I just outsmart people," Delaney said.

Booker spent the next six minutes on the bench with his disappointed coach, Oliver Purnell, which relieved one of Greenberg's concerns coming into the game. "We didn't have to double[-team] him

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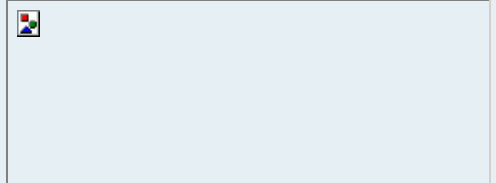
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when he's sitting next to coach Purnell," Greenberg said.

By the time Booker returned, the Hokies had stretched their lead from 41-37 to 49-41. They led by at least six for the rest of the game -- in part because of Allen.

He poked the ball away from David Potter with 7:26 left, bolted in for a layup, drew a foul and made the free throw. On Tech's next possession, Booker forced Allen, who is right-handed, to drive to his left. "Looking at all the games, that's the way that I go," Allen said. "For him to force me left, I'm gonna take it."

He did, and his layup put Tech up 51-41 its biggest lead to that point. Those are the kind of moments the Hokies might remember on March 14 if they finally make the tournament. And these are the kind of weeks, with challenges faced and met, that could get them there. Only the final eight games, starting Wednesday at North Carolina State, will tell.

"I don't know if we're good," Greenberg said. "But we're sure resilient."

Contact Darryl Slater at (804) 649-6026 or .

#### CLEMSON (4-5 ACC, 16-7)

	M	FG	FT	R	PFA	Pt
Potter-----	253	10	2-2	3	5	0 11
T. Booker-----	232	10	3-6	4	4	4 7
Grant-----	324	7	3-3	155	1	11
Smith-----	322	6	6-6	3	4	2 11
Young-----	314	11	0-0	2	1	4 10
Johnson-----	7	1-4	0-0	0	3	0 2
Stitt-----	271	6	0-3	3	4	1 3
Narcisse-----	2	1-1	0-0	2	1	0 2
Jennings-----	9	0-1	0-1	8	0	2 0
D. Booker-----	9	1-3	0-0	2	3	1 2
Hill-----	3	0-3	0-0	0	0	0 0
Team				5		
Totals -----	19-62	14-21	47	30	15	59

VIRGINIA TECH (5-3, 18-4)	M	FG	FT	R	PF	A	Pt
Allen-----	304	11	5-7	6	4	1	13
Bell-----	283	4	2-2	5	4	0	10
Davila-----	151	4	1-2	3	5	0	3
Hudson-----	292	8	1-2	1	3	0	5
Delaney-----	405	14	20-23	5	3	3	30
Raines-----	120	2	0-0	3	1	0	0
Green-----	250	4	8-8	2	0	1	8
Witcher-----	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Boggs-----	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Thompson-----	180	2	1-2	6	4	0	1
Team				4			
Totals -----	15-49	38-46	35	24	5	7	0

Clemson ----- 27 32 -- 59  
Virginia Tech ----- 29 41 -- 70

3-point goals -- Clemson (7-25): Potter 3-5, Young 2-8, Stitt 1-2, Smith 1-4, T. Booker 0-1, Jennings 0-1, Hill 0-2, Johnson 0-2. Virginia Tech (2-11): Bell 2-2, Allen 0-1, Green 0-1, Hudson 0-2, Delaney 0-5.

Turnovers -- Clemson (17): Grant 4, Smith 3, Young 3, Stitt 3, Potter, T. Booker, Jennings. Virginia Tech (10): Hudson 4, Delaney 4, Allen, Green.

Blocked shots -- Clemson (11): T. Booker 4, Grant 4, Jennings 2, Stitt. Virginia Tech (4): Bell 2, Hudson, Raines.

Steals -- Clemson (4): Potter, Smith, Young, Stitt. Virginia Tech (11): Allen 4, Bell 2, Delaney 2, Raines, Boggs, Thompson.

A -- 9,847.

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## Reader Reactions

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Posted by VARoadWarrior on February 07, 2010 at 12:45 pm Flag Comment

What I liked about yesterday's win was that Seth Greenberg and the Hokies realized early in the game that the referees were going to dictate the pace of play. Taking Clemson's Booker out of the game was the key. It usually hurts the Hokies when the refs call a lot of fouls because they are much better in the open court than in a half-court offense. But as long as the refs call things both ways, Delaney can make the best of it. The Hokies got in foul trouble early, and were ice cold from the field, but once they started drawing fouls, they were able to take control of the game.

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