

# Motlow loses players, games

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MOORE CO. — If last two games are any indication, this could be a long spring for Motlow State men's coach Lonnie Thompson.

Over the holiday break, Thompson lost three key players to academics and other reasons, which may be reason for two losses, both at home, to start 1999. Gone are leading scorer Brandon Willie and guards Jovan Firoul and Vaughn Bowie.

Thursday, the Bucks fell to visiting Vol State, a team they had beaten on the road, 76-66. Saturday, the Bucks fell at Copperweld Arena to Aquinas, which puts the Bucks' record at an 8-8.

Thursday, the men host St. Catharine's at Copperweld. Tip off time will be in Wednesday's The News.

Last Thursday versus Vol State, the Bucks led 41-40 at the half, but could not muster much offense in the second half.

"Neither team played really well," Thompson said. "One team decided they wanted to go on and win the game."

"We're a blue collar team," he added. "We have to overachieve every night. We don't

have the talent where we can play half speed or three-quarter speed ... we just have to overachieve every night or we don't give ourselves a chance."

After increasing the lead to eight points following halftime, Vol State clawed its way back until a thundering slam dunk by the Pioneers' Luke Brown gave the visitors the lead ... for good at 55-54. Wilson added 6 of his 10 points in the final six minutes of play as Vol State went on a 9-0 run down the stretch.

Big Donald Elder controlled the paint for Vol State as he shoveled in 21 points, all down low. Vol State's Antwan Stephens led all scorers with 26.

Matt Holman and John Carter led Motlow with 12 points, followed by Jerry Robinson and Dominic Tharpe with 11 apiece.

Saturday at Copperweld, the Bucks lost a heartbreaker to visiting Aquinas 65-61. At the half, Motlow trailed by one at 28-27.

Point guard Errick McFarland was the sole Motlow player in double figures with 10.

Marshall Hyler led four Aquinas players in double digits with 15.

Motlow had its chances down the stretch as Aquinas could manage just 8-of-17 from the free throw line.