BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Bobby Steven’s leadership and 10 points led Virginia Tech’s National Invitation Tournament champion Gobblers to a hard-earned 62-51 victory Saturday night over Virginia Military’s Keydets in the basketball season opener for both.

The Keydets trailed by only a point at the half, but Tech pulled out to an 11-point lead midway the second half and padded its margin to 17 with 1:32 left by hitting 10 of 14 free throws over a six-minute stretch late in the game.

Ed Frazier led the Gobblers with 12 points, while Calvin Wade had 10 along with Stevens. Kyle McKee pulled down 11 rebounds for the Gobblers.

VMI was led by Steve Chapin with 12 points and Charlie Tyler with 10, and Chapin had 12 rebounds and Tyler 11 for the Keydets.

Neither team shot better than 34 per cent.