AUBURN, Ala.—Guard Eddie Johnson sank a 12-foot jump shot from the left of the key after momentarily losing the ball, to give Auburn a 76-74 victory over last season's NIT champion Virginia Tech Saturday night.

Johnson, who had the ball blocked high in the air as Tech was going for a steal, retained possession and drove to the left of the lane and hit his bucket with only three seconds showing on the clock. Tech got the ball in to sub Calvin Wade who took a shot at the buzzer, but the ball did not go in and Tech went reeling to an even 1-1 record. Auburn is now 2-2.

Tech trailed throughout the first half and was down 43-36 at intermission. The Hokies trailed as much as four at 59-54 with 14:15 to go in the second half before two three-point plays by freshman Duke Thorpe brought the Hokies to within two at 63-62 with 7:21 left.

Center Craig Lieder tied the game at 65-65 with 5:34 to go with two three free throws. Tech took a 69-67 lead with 3:10 left on Lieder’s 12 footer and went up 71-67 with 2:50 to play when Ed Frazier sank two fo

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Guard Mike Christians hit for a bucket on a drive to close it to within 71-70 with 2:00 left, then Christian tied it on a jumper with 52 seconds to go.

Tech, confronting a 1-2-2 zone, went into a four corner offense, but Kyle McKee missed a shot and Bobby Stevens fouled with 28 seconds to go which sent Christian to the line for a one-and-one. He sank both to make it 74-72, Auburn.

Calvin Wade hit to tie it at 74-all with only 10 seconds showing, but Auburn’s Johnson won it with his jumper.

Johnson had 26 and Christian 21 for Auburn, while Tech was led by Lieder’s 20, Charlie Thomas’ 14 and Frazier’s 12. Tech, who’ll face tough Alabama Monday, shot only 32 percent from the floor.