Tough defense and improved shooting kept Virginia Tech ahead of Alabama by 10 points on two occasions—during the first half but a rally by the nationally ranked Crimson Tide sliced the Hokies as "Bama gained revenge for a loss in the NIT, 75-64."

Tech held a 39-33 lead at halftime, partly on the strength of rebounding and defensive work of Craig Lieder and Charlie Thomas, who also shared scoring honors with 19 and 14 respectively.

Bama's strategy of getting the ball to Leon Douglas worked in the second half when he got 13 of his 19 points. Douglas also finished with 13 rebounds.

Alabama tied it up with just under 12 minutes remaining in the game on a shot by Douglas, took command and stayed in the lead from then on.

Dave Sensabaugh, playing more aggressive ball this season, wound up with 8 rebounds and Kyle McKee had 7 to go with 6 rebounds. Lieder and Thomas had 9 and 8 rebounds. Ed Frazier had an unimpressive total of 20 from the field and 4 points.

Bobby Stevens, benched during much of the evening as coach Don DeVoe sought but didn't find some scoring punch, had 4 points.