Tar Heels Hold Off VPI, 83-78

CHARLOTTE (UPI)—Second ranked North Carolina, scrambling with a second half scoring spurt led by Bobby Jones, downed upset-minded Virginia Tech, 83-78, Thursday night.

The Tar Heels, down 41-39 at the half, ripped off three consecutive baskets in the opening minutes of the second period and widened the gap to as many as 10 points before Virginia Tech closed to within a point in the final moments.

Jones scored 12 points in the second half and finished with 20 to take high scoring honors for the game. Darrell Elston finished the game with 18, including six points in the last 64 seconds to ice the game for the Tar Heels.

Virginia Tech, despite the height disadvantage, led the Tar Heels by as many as eight points in the first half behind the scoring of forward Ed Frazier with 10 points, the only player in double figures in the first half. He finished with 14.

Senior Charlie Thomas scored 15 points in the second half to close on the Tar Heel lead and finished the game with 19.

North Carolina had a 74-68 lead with seven minutes left in the game but three consecutive turnovers allowed the Gobblers to pull close before Carolina went into its famed four corner offense, forcing Tech to foul and Elston got his six points, including four free throws.

Carolina won its sixth straight game and Virginia is now 2-3.