VPI, After Close First Half, Whips Fla., 85-74

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Virginia Tech's Gobblers, led by Craig Lieder and a pressing defense, outscored Florida 21-7 over the first 11 minutes of the second half Saturday night and rolled to an 85-74 basketball victory over the Gators.

The National Invitation Tournament champions were ahead by only 35-33 at intermission, but Coach Don Devoe went to his bench after the Gobblers ran up a 20-point lead with 8:22 left on a combination of their own streak and a Florida scoring drought.

The Gators got just one field goal and three free throws in the first eight minutes of the second half.

Lieder scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Gobblers held a 55-27 edge off the boards. Ed Frazier also had 15 points and Charlie Thomas 13 for the Gobblers, now 3-3 for the season.

Florida, which suffered its second defeat in five starts, was led by Mike Lederman with 15 points, Don Close with 13 and Chip Williams with 12.

FLORIDA (74)—C. Williams 12, Shy 9, Thompson 0, Fletcher 8, Lederman 15, S. Williams 2, Caldwell 9, Bostic 2, Close 13, Moore 2, Shellabarger 2.

VIRGINIA TECH (85)—Lieder 15, Thomas 13, Stevens 4, Frazier 15, McKee 6, Sensibaugh 9, Wade 6, Thorpe 7, Fugate 0, Collins 0, Shrewsberry 6, Wiggins 0, Harvey 0, Thieneman 0, Nelson 4, Skulbarstad 0.