Gobblers Rout Eastern Ky.

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech, in its first start after getting blown out of the All-College tournament at Oklahoma City with a seventh-place finish, came on like a coach’s dream in the first half against the Eastern Kentucky Colonels. Despite a relapse in the third quarter, the Hokies rallied to finish strong, 92-65.

Plagued by bad shooting averages from the field in many games, Tech did a turnaround, hitting on 51 percent of its field goals in the first half. By the early stages of the third quarter, the lead was 90-60. A lead spell set when guard Bobby Stevens was lifted and the 30-point margin was chopped to 27 in about 9 minutes.

The Colonels, who went 1-6 with the loss, looked like a threat only during the third quarter.

Craig Lieder was unstoppable, easily tossing in 23 points during the first half, but was held to 7 in the second half, to finish with 30. Steady Charlie Thomas and Stevens each had 10, Kyle McKee and Ed Frazier had 8 apiece and Dennis Shrewsberry and Dave Spencebaugh each made three out of four field goals for 6. Other scorers: Duke Thorpe, 7; Mike Collins, 5, and Geoff Wiggins, 2.

Mark Cartwright appeared in his first varsity game, played only one minute but had one assist.

Tech evened its record at 3-5.

Carl Brown of EKU, who had a scoring average of 17.2 coming into the game, was held to 8 by an outstanding defensive job by Thomas.

Robert Brooks fattened his 12.8 average, scoring 17 and Rick Stansel contributed 12.

Coach Don DeVoe praised the team for a near-perfect first half and said Thomas did an excellent defensive job. He observed that McKee played his best game so far but added that mental mistakes still cost Tech points and said the team still doesn’t play at its best for the complete 40 minutes.

DeVoe said reserve guard Dennis Fugate, a freshman, received a bad ankle sprain in practice and his status was uncertain.

SCORE BY STEVENS—Guard Bobby Stevens fires for two points in Virginia Tech’s rout of Eastern Kentucky last Thursday at Tech Coliseum. Tech led by 30 points, 60-30 at one point in the third quarter.