TALLAHASSEE (Special to Daily Press) — Virginia Tech played nearly flawless basketball for the final 14:30, but could not overcome a huge Florida State lead and dropped an 85-80 decision to the Seminoles Thursday night.

The Gobblers committed just one turnover during the last three-eighths of the contest and Charlie Thomas contributed all 17 of his points in the second half toward mounting the threat before it fell short.

FSU gained a 24-point lead before going off at halftime with a 46-25 bulge. The Seminoles shot 46.5 per cent from the floor during that period, while Tech managed a poor 29.7 over the same stretch.

Larry Warren scored all 15 of his points for FSU in the first half, while teammate Wayne Smalls contributed nine of his 15 points in the second.

“We can’t seem to get ready to play on the road,’’ his Gobblers Coach Don DeVoe said after dropped to 6-6. “We didn’t get with it in the first half. They overpowered us and we got intimidated in the first half.”

The 16-4 Seminoles outrebounded the Techmen, 82-40, and Greg Grady had 15 to lead the way. Lawrence McCray had 13 caroms.

Craig Lieder, who scored 14 of his 22 points in the late surge, had 13 rebounds in the loss, while Kyle McKee grabbed 12.

The Gobbler pecked away until FSU led by only 83-78, but could never catch up.

Florida State wore down Virginia Tech early by rocketing a 16-4 spurt late in the first half to give them the large lead which turned out to be too much for the Gobblers.

Virginia Tech 85
Florida State 80

Made Free Throws: Tech 20, FSU 22.

Att. 4,040

Scoring Leaders:

VT — Thomas 17, Smalls 11, Warren 11.

Virginia Tech 80
Florida State 85

Rebounds: FSU 46, Virginia Tech 45.

Missed Free Throws: FSU 22, VT 18.

Field Goals: FSU 37, VT 40.

Assists: FSU 9, VT 12.

Turnovers: FSU 12, VT 13.

Pens.: FSU 24, VT 26.