Charlie Thomas leads Tech win

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Charlie Thomas scored five points in the last 46 seconds Wednesday night as he rallied Virginia Tech’s Gobblers to an 82-80 basketball victory over West Virginia’s Mountaineers.

Thomas had put the Gobblers ahead by 77-72 after they blew a six-point lead with eight minutes remaining, but a three-point play by Levi Phillips sent the Mountaineers on top at 78-77 with 1:53 remaining.

With 46 seconds left, Thomas hit a jumper and with 25 seconds remaining he hit two free throws to give Tech an 81-78 margin. After West Virginia cut the gap to one point with 13 seconds left, Thomas hit a free throw, then broke up an in-bounds West Virginia pass.

There were 14 ties in the game and the biggest lead was the six-point spread Tech had with eight minutes left.

Craig Lieder had 23 points and Thomas 22 for the Gobblers, who upped their record to 7-6 even though the Mountaineers had a 45-37 rebound advantage and shot 51.3 per cent from the floor to 42.3 per cent for Tech.

The Mountaineers, now 4-7, were led by Warren Baker with 22 points and 19 rebounds, Phillips with 21 points and Eartha Faust with 17.