VPI Home Skein Snapped, 70-68, By Oral Roberts

BLACKSBURG (Special to Daily Press) — Oral Roberts University ended Virginia Tech’s 18-game home winning streak Saturday night with a heart-pounding 70-68 victory.

Don DeVoe’s forces (7-7) had one last-ditch chance to send the contest into overtime, but Craig Lieder’s 14-foot jumper was blocked by Oral Roberts’ Greg McDougald at the buzzer.

Virginia Tech bunched 10 consecutive points to deadlock the contest at 64-all with 3:59 left and the teams traded field goals the rest of the way.

Eddie Woods scored the decisive points on a layup with seven seconds left. Woods missed the front end of a one-and-one situation from the free throw line, but recovered the ball after a scramble and converted the winning two-pointer.

Oral Roberts managed a 38-32 halftime advantage by outshooting the Techmen, 59.3-32.5 per cent from the field.

“We controlled the tempo right down to the end like we wanted to. Our last-second play was executed perfectly but the shot was blocked,” said DeVoe, Virginia Tech’s head coach.

“Our guards made some big plays to get us back into the game in the second half. Oral Roberts did a good job controlling the ball in the final minute,” added DeVoe.

Oral Roberts (14-2) was led by Sam McCants with 20 points.

Lieder had a game high of 22 points for the Gobblers. Charlie Thomas, who was instrumental in the second-half rally, tallied 20 points.

“It’s important that we were able to come back in the second half. We had the opportunity to fold, but we didn’t,” DeVoe said.

Oral Roberts controlled the backboards, 42-28, and outshot Virginia Tech, 54.8-39.7 per cent for the game.

The Gobblers last lost in