Gobblers Preserve Victory

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Charlie Thomas stole an inbounds pass that led to three points in the last 13 seconds Saturday night that preserved a 72-68 basketball victory for Virginia Tech over Richmond.

The Gobblers, who twice in the second half had led by nine points, saw Richmond cut the margin to 68-68 before Thomas made his steal. Bobby Stevens was fouled after the steal and hit a free throw. Craig Lieder rebounded the missed second shot for the final margin.

Aron Stewart kept Richmond in the game in the first half, scoring all the Spiders’ 15 points during one 5-2-minute span. He hit 10 of 20 shots from the floor and finished with a game-high 34 points.

Tech, now 8-7 for the season, was led by Lieder with 17 points and Thomas and Calvin Wade, just coming back from an injury with 12 each. Lieder also grabbed 13 rebounds.

Eric Gray, who scored 19 points, had 12 rebounds and Stewart 10 for Richmond, now 5-9.

RICHMOND (68)—Stewart 10, 14-18 34, Gray 8 3 4 19, McCurdy 4 0-0-8, Catlett 1 0-0-2, Sanford 1 0-0-2, Eastman 0 1-2 2, Collier 1 0-0-2, Williams 0 0-0-0, Totals 25 18-34.

VIRGINIA TECH (72)—Lieder 7 3-3 17, Thomas 6 0-0-12, Frazier 1 0-0-2, Stevens 4 3-6 11, McKe 3 0-0-6, Wade 6 0-0-12, Thorpe 0 0-0-0, Collins 4-0 2-8, Shrewsberry 2 0-0-4, Sensibaugh 0-0-0. Totals 33 6-11.

Halftime: Virginia Tech 43, Richmond 35.