Cavs Zonk Hokies

Virginia Tech’s chances for a winning season took a body blow Wednesday when the revived Virginia Cavaliers took charge immediately and thoroughly outclassed the Gobblers, winning easily, 84-70.

Virginia, on the rebound from an earlier drubbing by North Carolina, started out running, taking a 6-0 lead before Tech could score and dominating the game despite powerful showing by redshirt sophomore Mike Collins.

Collins played aggressively, grabbing 13 rebounds, tops for Tech, and scoring 22 points, a total which would have been higher but for foul trouble. Collins’ career high scoring total was the only highlight as no other Gobbler could reach double figures. The tall Pennsylvanian hit on 11 of 21 from the field.

Before Tech could assert itself it was out of the game for all practical purposes. Virginia held leads of 14-6, 22-10 and 30-18 at various points in the action before arriving at a halftime lead of 39-28.

Tech, cold enough to be renamed the Snow Gobblers, shot an anemic 36% while the Cavs had one of their better shooting nights. In the field goal department, Bob McKeag hit 7 of 11, Al Drummond had 6 of 9, Wally Walker 7 of 10, and Cav standout Gus Gerard had 12 of 27 for 27 points and pulled down 18 rebounds, both game highs. Kyle McKee’s 4 of 8 field goals and 6 rebounds were most of the help Collins was to get.

Virginia also won the defensive battle, stifling Craig Lieder after his sixth point early in the first quarter until Lieder scored his final bucket with 10 minutes left in the game.

Tech sprang a 2-3 zone defense for a while but abandoned it when it didn’t work against the aroused Wahoos.

Heading into the season closer at sometimes-surprising George Washington last Saturday the chances of gaining a 14-12 mark seemed extremely poor for a team which has almost never won on the road this season.