

Special To The Democrat

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The Virginia Tech Gobblers continued their athletic domination of Florida State with a 77-74 basketball triumph over the Seminoles Saturday night. Tech handed the Peach Bowl-bound FSU gridders one of their two defeats of the 1968 season.

It was the first loss of the season for the FSU cagers in four outings, while the Gobblers were winning their first game of the year after earlier losses to Duke and West Virginia.

The Seminoles made 11 turnovers in the first half, and it took a 15 point, 10-rebound effort by big Dave Cowens to keep FSU within striking range. The Gobblers rested with a 34-31 advantage at the mid-way point.

The lead see-sawed throughout the second half with no team leading by more than three points. With 1:01 left, the Seminoles led 72-71. Jeff Hogan was fouled with 48 seconds left but missed the first shot of a one-and-one foul. VPI's Dan Wetzel cleared the boards and scored on a jumper with 36 seconds left. Down by one point, the Seminoles roared back but an errant pass was picked up and turned into two more points by Gobbler Chris Ellis. With 26 seconds remaining, FSU trailed 75-72.

Dale Cowens took a pass from Willie Williams and dropped it in, drawing a foul in the process. The charity toss that would have tied it dropped off the front rim and Wayne

Lockett pulled down the crucial rebound for VPI.

Seminole forward Dale Klay fouled Lockett with four seconds left and the smooth Gobbler guard swished both free tosses to put the game on ice. It was Lockett's ninth free throw of the game without a miss.

In desperation, Skip Young drove past the half-court mark for the bucket trying to draw a

foul and set up a three-point score, but instead was whistled for offensive charging at the final buzzer.

The game was lost at the foul stripe for the Seminoles who converted on only 14 of 27 attempts. VPI hit on 17 of 25.

Cowens, Seminole center, led all scorers with 30 points, his biggest effort of the season. The big cager also pulled down 16 rebounds.

Ron Wagner paced the Gobblers with 18 points, followed closely by Lockett with 17. Ellis added 13, Wetzel 10 to the balanced VPI scoring attack.

FSU's classy sophomore guard Skip Young was held to 10 points. He had been averaging 22 per contest before the Gobblers put the stopper to him.

Next on the Seminole schedule is nationally-ranked Louisville, Ky., Monday night. The FSU cagers then return home for a single contest with University of Southern California December 21.

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FLA. STATE UNIVERSITY

| | FG | FT | REB | TP |
|----------|-------|-------|-----|----|
| Hogan | 4-12 | 0-1 | 1 | 8 |
| Cowens | 12-19 | 6-11 | 16 | 30 |
| Young | 4-13 | 2-4 | 4 | 10 |
| Klay | 4-7 | 2-3 | 3 | 10 |
| Williams | 4-10 | 0-0 | 11 | 8 |
| Gies | 1-2 | 2-5 | 3 | 4 |
| Cable | 1-2 | 1-1 | 0 | 3 |
| Burt | 0-3 | 1-2 | 0 | 1 |
| Bush | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 30-66 | 14-27 | 40 | 74 |

VIRGINIA TECH

| | FG | FT | REB | TP |
|---------|-------|-------|-----|----|
| Ellis | 6-14 | 1-3 | 2 | 13 |
| King | 4-10 | 1-2 | 3 | 9 |
| Wetzel | 3-4 | 4-5 | 7 | 10 |
| Kerrick | 0-4 | 1-2 | 2 | 1 |
| Wagner | 9-13 | 0-3 | 7 | 18 |
| Lockett | 4-7 | 4-9 | 6 | 17 |
| Manuel | 4-10 | 1-1 | 10 | 9 |
| Deskins | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 30-62 | 17-25 | 37 | 77 |

Halftime score: Virginia Tech 34 FSU 31