Tech Falls
To Ohio U.

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ATHENS, O. — Virginia Tech, which has had its troubles on the road, started a three-game trip Wednesday night with an 88-79 loss to Ohio U.

The setback for the Gobbler's evened their record at 7-7 and ended a two-game win streak. Tech will play at Clemson on Saturday and at West Virginia next Wednesday.

Tech is officially unbeaten at home this year with a 4-0 mark and its other three wins have been on a neutral court.

Ohio, on the other hand, is very tough at home. The Bobcats are 7-6, but 6-1 at home, where they have lost only to powerful Missouri.

Tech got off to a fast start, leading early at 15-6, but the Bobcats rallied to gain a 40-39 halftime lead and pulled away midway in the second half.

The Gobbler's experienced a cold spell in which they went better than three minutes without scoring, and when Coach Don DeVoe called time with 8:30 left, Tech was behind 65-55.

Ohio eventually ran the lead to 12 points but Tech rallied to get within four before Tom Riccardi rebounded his own shot between two Gobbles and made a goal that clinched the victory.

DeVoe felt that missed layups cost Tech dearly. "You can't miss shots like that against a good ball club.

"Tom Corde and Todd Lalich did a great job for Ohio in the first half and got them back in the game," DeVoe said. "We couldn't force them out of their game plan and into what we wanted to do.'

Tech was hurt badly when both starting guards, Randy Minix and Bill McNeer, fouled out. Minix, who got three quick second half personal fouls, left with still 15:04 to play and McNeer followed at 4:58.

Tech's offense once more was Allan Bristow. The big junior tallied 25 points, but no other Gobbler had more than 12.

Ohio, meanwhile, had much the better balance. Lalich had his season high of 23 points and Bob Howell added 17. Corde, the season scoring leader, was held to 12 and shot poorly.

But if there was a key man for the Bobcats, it had to be 6-8 junior Denny Rusch, who didn't start. Rusch came off the bench to get 12 points and help overcome the quick Tech start.

Tech, which has shot poorly most of the year, matched Ohio's 48 percent from the field, but the Hokies were outrebounded 40-31 and had 18 turnovers to only 10 for the Bobcats, who revenged last year's 86-80 loss at Blacksburg.