MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Quarterback Mike Robb threw two touchdown passes and sneaked for another to direct the bowl-hopeful Memphis State Tigers to a 49-16 crushing of Virginia Tech Saturday night in his first starting role.

Inserted in the lineup as the Tigers searched for more offensive punch, Robb responded by guiding Memphis State to touchdowns on all but one of the Tigers’ possessions in the first half. Memphis State held a 28-10 halftime lead.

The victory gave the Tigers a 6-2 record in their drive to attract a bowl invitation. The Gobblers fell to 1-8.

Robb kept a yard for a touchdown and threw scoring passes of seven and five yards to flanker Bobby Ward, all in the first half. A junior, he completed nine of 16 passes for 133 yards before retiring in the fourth quarter.

Memphis State also scored on a 12-yard halfback pass from Dan Darby to end Steve DeLong in a 21-point second quarter. In the last period, the Tigers scored on runs of six yards by Clif Taylor, 12 yards by Jay Verna and seven yards by Terdell Middleton.

Virginia Tech scored on Wayne Latimer’s 27-yard, first quarter field goal. James Barber blasted three yards for another Gobbler touchdown after the Tigers were called for pass interference on an incomplete, 40-yard bomb to their three.

George Heath returned a kickoff 80 yards to the Memphis State 12 to set up the Gobblers’ other touchdown, a one-yard keeper by freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce.