Cooke Makes Final Basket To Boost Tech To 86-85 Squeaker Over Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—In a finish reminiscent of many games during Virginia Tech's NIT championship year two seasons back, the Hokies pulled out a last second thriller, 86-85, Monday over Florida. Larry Cooke, the transfer from Mt. Olive Junior College, put in a rebound of a missed foul shot by Kyle McKee with two seconds remaining to lift the Hokies to their second straight road victory.

McKee had gone to the line after Florida's Bruno Calde- well was called for charging on the basket that put the Gators in front, 65-63, with only five seconds remaining. A situation that forced Tech to call a timeout, behind the big men, and dropped in the winner.

That gave him a game high of 22 points, while Russell Davis added 15 and Dave Smithe and Mark Cartwright had 10 each.

The Hokies had built up as much as an 11-point lead during the first half and were ahead, 47-42, at halftime, but gave up 38 points in the second half.

Florida led by as much as eight, 63-55, with 10 minutes to play, but the Gobbler rebounded back on some hot shooting by Cartwright.

Mark Lederman led the Gators with 24 points.