Fosnes Hits 28, Vanderbilt Nips Gobblers 75-72

NASHVILLE, TENN (Special to Daily Press) - Jeff Fosnes poured in 28 points to pace Vanderbilt to a 75-72 triumph over Virginia Tech in the opening round of the Commodores' own invitational tournament Friday.

Don DeVoe's forces tonight's consolation game meet Austin Peay in Friday's first game. Fosnes' layup with two minutes left put Vanderbilt ahead to stay at 69-67 with 2:06 left to play. The score was deadlocked on 17 occasions.

Junior college transfer Russell Davis (24 points) and Mike Collins (14 points) led the Gobblers' scoring.

"I can't be anything but proud of this team the way they hung in the game and executed well," said DeVoe.

Virginia Tech led most of the first half, but the Commodores managed a 34-32 edge at intermission.

Southern Illinois, now 2-0 this season, bolted to a 16-4 lead after seven minutes. But Austin Peay outscored the Salukis 10-2 in the last four minutes of the half and trailed only 38-34 at intermission.

The Governors tied it at 50-all with 13 minutes left but could never take the lead.

Southern Illinois played most of the second half with ace center Joe Meriweather on the bench with four fouls. But he still finished with 13 points.

Tim Ricci scored 14 for the winners and Nat Turner and Corky Abrams had 10 apiece.

Percy Howard led Austin Peay, now 1-1, with 17 points. Charlie Fishback had 12.