F-Troop Holds Off Tech

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt’s F-Troop carried the favored Commodores to a 75-72 victory over Virginia Tech Friday night to advance to the finals of its own tournament.

Vanderbilt will play Southern Illinois for the title Saturday night after Tech, now 2-1, played Austin Peay for third place. Southern Illinois beat Austin Peay 79-70 in the opener.

Vandy’s F-Troop consists of juniors Jeff Fosnes, Joe Ford and Butch Fehr. They scored the first 29 points for Vandy in the second half as the Commodores used free-throw shooting to post their second win of the year.

Vandy, which trailed most of the first half, finally grabbed a 34-32 intermission lead on a layup by Ford. In that period, Tech had six more field goals but trailed because Vandy made 12 free throws and the Hokies never got to the foul line.

For the game, Tech had six more baskets, 32-26, but Vandy had 23 free shots to only eight for the Hokies.

It took some fine offensive rebounding by cold-shooting Tech to keep it in the game. Tech actually got off 39 more shots than Vandy but shot only 38 percent to Vandy’s 57 percent.

Although the F-Troop did most of the scoring, with Fosnes leading everybody with 28 points, it was Mike Moore who gave the Commodores a big push near the finish.

Moore got a rebound goal with 4:42 left that made it 65-61. Vandy. Those were the first second-half points not scored by the F-Troop. Moore promptly responded with a jumper to make it 67-63.

Tech tied the score at 67 on two free throws by Larry Cooke with 2:16 to play, but the ever-present Fosnes gave Vandy the lead for good at 2:00 when he hit a jumper. Moore followed with a pair of foul shots and Dick Keffer hit two more to make it 73-67 with only 1:06 left.

On Keffer’s free throws, Larry Cooke fouled out, Kyle McKee had fouled out earlier.

Russell Davis, who led Tech with 24 points, 18 in the last half, got a three-point play to make it 73-70, but the calm Ford iced it with a pair of fouls. Davis got another goal with 13 seconds left, but Tech did not even make a foul after that and Vandy ran out the clock.