Gobblers Go Inside, Rap Colonels 90-81

By ALAN HIRSCH
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RICHMOND, Ky. — With pun intended, Larry Cooke was definitely “cooking” Monday night.

The Virginia Tech Junior scored on his first nine shots and the Gobblers broke a long-standing road jinx by trimming Eastern Kentucky 90-81 at Alumni Coliseum.

Cooke became the second member of the current Tech team to reach the 30-point mark by scoring 32 as the Gobblers beat the Colonels (7-11) for the first time on the Kentuckians’ court after five defeats.

Teammate Russell Davis, who had just 12 points Monday night, got 30 against Vermont on New Year’s Eve.

Known for its weakness inside, Tech (12-7) put in 15 layups among its 20 field goals for a 49-41 lead at intermission.

The longest VPI two-pointer of the period was Cooke’s 18-footer at the head of the key with 3:42 to go.

“The coach always likes us to take the good percentage shots,” Cooke remarked. “With the zone, they let us penetrate too easily and when they played a man-to-man, we were able to wheel and go in for the layups.

“It was my best game,” he added, “especially because it was an important win.”

Cooke finished with 15 field goals in 21 shots and West Point’s Duke Thorpe provided the strong defense with a half dozen blocked shots in addition to his 14 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

“We blocked a lot of shots tonight,” Tech Coach Don DeVoe said when Thorpe’s...