Virginia Tech cruises past Liberty

Hokies overpower Flames on boards

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Rolan Roberts had 17 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks, and Eddie Lucas added another 17 points Tuesday as Virginia Tech beat Liberty, 85-51.

The Hokies (2-1) had a 57-30 rebounding advantage, which included 27 offensive boards. Liberty (1-3) was unable to protect the ball, turning it over 23 times, 14 on Hokie steals.

In the first half, Tech blazed away from the field, shooting 52.9 percent (18-for-34), while the Flames could make just eight field goals in falling behind 42-19.

Jermaine Kimbrough had 14 points for the Hokies, while Dennis Mims scored 12 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked two shots in 21 minutes of play. Russ Wheeler added 10 rebounds. Tech finished with six blocks.

Chris Caldwell had 15 points to lead the Flames, while Delawn Grandison added 13.

Lucas was deadly on 3-pointers, hitting 3-for-4, while Brendan Dunlop led the Hokies with seven assists and six steals.

Hokie coach Bobby Hussey took advantage of a Liberty team whose tallest player is 6-foot-10.

"There is no question about our size. We are big, and we know we need to play big," Hussey said.

Hussey’s front line of Roberts (6-6, 237 pounds), Russ Wheeler (6-8, 253) and Lucas (6-6, 200) combined for 42 points, 26 rebounds and three blocks. The Flames front of Jay Boykin (6-5, 210), Grandison (6-5, 220) and Adam Hopkins (6-10, 255) were limited to 23 points.

With Mims (6-9, 200) and Alvaro Tor (6-9, 241) coming off the bench, the mismatch was obvious.

VIRGINIA TECH 85, LIBERTY 51

VIRGINIA TECH (2-1): Roberts 7-12 3-8 17, Lucas 7-10 0-0 17, Wheeler 4-10 0-0 8, Kimbrough 5-17 2-2 14, Dunlop 3-10 0-1 7, Floyd 2-3 0-1 4, Vegas 1-4 0-0 2, Mims 5-8 2-5 12, Tor 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 35-77 9-19 85.

LIBERTY (1-3): Boykin 2-5 0-0 6, Grandison 6-14 1-4 13, Hopkins 2-3 0-0 4, Gowgill 0-2 0-0 0, Marks 1-1 1-0 0-3, Caldwell 6-10 0-0 15, Bennett 3-10 0-2 8, Cabrera 0-5 0-0 0, Benjamin 0-4 0-0 0, Harvest 1-1 0-0 2, Ros 0-0 0-0, Marley 0-0 0-0, Day 0-1 0-0, Satschneider 0-0 0-0, Cullen 0-0 0-0. Totals 21-57 16-51.

Halftime—Virginia Tech 42, Liberty 19. 3-Point goals—Virginia Tech 6-12 (Lucas 4-4, Kimbrough 2-2, Dunlop 1-5, Vegas 0-1), Liberty 2-21 (Boykin 2-3, Grandison 0-1, Gowgill 0-2, Marks 1-1, Caldwell 3-6, Bennett 2-6, Cabrera 0-2). Fouled out—Benjamin. Rebounds—Virginia Tech 7 (Mims 2, Lucas 1, Vegas 1, Kimbrough 2, Wheeler 2, Boykin 1), Liberty 12 (Grandison 4). Turnovers—Virginia Tech 15 (Dunlop 7), Liberty 23 (Marks 4). Total fouls—Virginia Tech 23, Liberty 23. A—6,223.

Va. Tech 72, JMU 54

Sophomore Tere Williams had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the host Hokies (4-0), who dominated after trailing 29-28 at the half.