

# MT Explodes to Defeat Cajuns 48-35

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**Calico For 100:** WR Tyrone Calico put on an exhibition in today's game. Calico and QB Andrico Hines hooked up three times for 103 yards, giving Calico the Blue Raiders' first 100-yard receiving game of the year. For Calico, the tally marked the 6th time in his career that he has eclipsed the century mark. In fact, Calico reeled off all 103 yards in the first quarter. Calico's achievement runs the total of 100-yard games to 21 under head coach Andy McCollum. Calico missed the second half of today's game due to a knee injury. **Who is that?:** Middle Tennessee had two players dressed in no. 33 for today's game against UL Lafayette. Linebacker Jonathan Bonner started the year wearing the jersey, but RB Dwone Hicks



donned his old number for today's game, too, after wearing no. 4 for the team's first six games. Hicks will continue to wear #33 for the rest of the year as will Bonner. Two players may wear the same number in a game as long as they are not in the game at the same time. **Mr. Touchdown:** Andrico Hines is becoming a scoring machine. Hines ran his streak of games with at least one touchdown to four. However, Hines wasn't done there. He went on to tally three scores in the game, running his season TD total to a team-high seven. He also leads the team in total points scored with 44. Hines later threw his second career TD strike to Kerry Wright in the third quarter. **Going Deep:** QB Andrico Hines put together quite a passing day against UL Lafayette. The Riverdale, GA, native was 17-of-24 passing for a career-high 347 yards. Hines tossed a 51-yard strike WR Tyrone Calico in the first quarter of the game to set a career long and then bested himself again when he hit Kerry Wright on a 53-yard TD toss. It was the second TD pass in Hines' career. Hines' previous best passing outing came against Arkansas State when he threw for 202 yards against Kentucky. **More on Hines:** Andrico Hines put together one of the most prolific days ever for a MT quarterback. Hines' 347 yards passing ranks fifth all-time, tying Wes Counts, who tallied the same yardage against the Ragin' Cajuns in 1999, for that honor. Hines spread the wealth with his receivers as well, hitting nine different men during the game. Hines rushed for 75 yards, just missing becoming the first Blue

Raider signal caller to ever throw for 300 yards and rush for 100. **Offensive Production:** QB Andrico Hines led an inspired offensive performance against the Ragin' Cajuns. Hines' 300-yard passing effort is the first of his career and the seventh under Andy McCollum. Hines also helped to engineer the best offensive output of the season for the Blue Raiders. The team rolled up 520 yards of total offense in the game with 173 coming through the air and 347 on the ground. The offensive output is the most for the Blue Raiders since gaining 528 yards against Connecticut last season. Middle Tennessee also posted its highest point total of the year today, reaching the 40-point plateau for the first time since ringing up 54 on Arkansas State a year ago. **Stopping the Run:** Middle Tennessee's defense has been on an upswing of late and today was no different. The Blue Raider defensive unit was tough against the Ragin' Cajun ground attack, limiting UL Lafayette to only 20 net yards rushing on 32 attempts. The previous low for an opponent on the ground this season came in the second week of the season when the Volunteers were limited to 137 yards. The Blue Raiders are now limiting the opposition to 167 yards per game on the ground. **Bland Makes Most of Start:** Senior LB Kareem Bland made the most of his first start this season today. Bland recorded a team-best eight tackles in the game including a big sack of UL Lafayette QB Jon Van Cleave for an eight yard loss. The tackle total is a season high for Bland. **Starting Over:** Last week against Vanderbilt, senior WR David Youell saw his streak of consecutive games with at least one catch snapped at 27. Today, Youell began a new streak with his first catch in six quarters when he hauled in a pass inside the five yard line late in the third quarter. **Quick Hitters:** WR Wardell Alsup made his first career start today ... LB Michael Woods saw his streak of starts come to an end after 15 straight ... LB Kenny Edwards collected his first career sack in the first quarter of today's game ... LB Kareem Bland's first quarter sack equals his career high ... QB Andrico Hines now has a rushing TD in four straight games ... DT Jeff Littlejohn started the second half in place of Curtis Daniely ... Curtis Daniely recorded his first sack of the season in the third quarter ... WR Kerry Wright's 53-yard TD grab was the second of his career, both of which have gone for over 50 yards ... Wardell Alsup's two catches today equals his career high. **QUOTES MT Head Coach Andy McCollum**

"We knew coming into the game they were a very dangerous team. Their quarterback is a pro prospect and we knew their receiver could make a lot of plays. They had a couple of other receivers stand up and make plays. I thought defensively did some really good things early. Our defense kept us in the game in the first half when we were turning the ball over and making some mistakes. We had a couple of breakdowns. You don't let people behind you when you're ahead like that. We'll get that straight. [The defensive backs] have been playing well. Offensively we looked like the Middle Tennessee offense. Andrico Hines, from last week to this week, has really grown up. Our backs brought it downhill and I thought our line did a great job, and our receivers stepped up and made some plays. Chris Henry makes a great play, Calico makes two big plays early, Wardell Alsup, Kerry Wright makes a tremendous play [in the end zone] and almost another one if it had been in-bounds. Brian Kelly, what a tremendous job he did. It was overall team. Paul Wheeler comes to mind. He kicked the fool out of the ball. I am very appreciative of the people who came out with the rainy weather. I'm so proud to be a Blue Raider and know the fans we have and support we have. On a day that didn't look like a very nice day, our people still came out. **On throwing the ball downfield** That's part of the growing process and part of Andrico growing up, doing things and learning and getting some of the young guys stepping up and making plays. They bottled us in tight pretty good, so we sprayed it around pretty good. I thought our offensive staff did a tremendous job of preparing these guys and we played well. Our kids played our tails off. If it wasn't for our defense in the first half, we would have been way down, by getting a safety on a busted play and by turning the ball over. I tell you something that probably doesn't get written up, but the defense going out there on that last series on the goal line to make them take four downs to score, that took about a minute-

and-a-half off the clock. Even though they scored, that was key. That allowed us to just get one first down and finish this thing up." Middle Tennessee quarterback Andrico Hines made some good plays, scrambling down the field and making our players miss. He really made a difference in the game, holding his poise in tough situations. As a defense we were getting beat left and right with deep balls. Hines looked like he was just throwing some of those balls up there, and Middle's receivers were there to make the play." **MT Quarterback Andrico Hines**

"It was a great win for our team today. Things were not going that great in the second half, but we got clicking in the second half to pickup our first conference win. The defense kept us in the game the first half, then we got going. Everything felt better out there today. We made some plays and got in the endzone. Now we have to build off of this and get ready for next week. We have to take things one game at a time. **MT LB Brandon Lynch**

"We were flying around a little better on defense today. I thought we played well in the first half, but we still gave up some big plays in the passing game, which we need to get corrected. We were pretty good against the run, but you have to give their quarterback and receiver credit because they made some big plays today. We will enjoy this one today, but starting tomorrow we will begin focusing on our next opponent. **ULL Head Coach Rickey Bustle**

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"I really thought this would be a 28 or 24 point ball game. Middle Tennessee has a good team with a lot of offensive firepower. We started the second half way too slow, going three and out, while they came back and scored again."

#### **ULL Cornerback Charles Tillman**

"I really have to take my hat off to Coach Andy McCollum and this team. They executed their plays, and Tyrone Calico made two great catches. With Middle Tennessee you have to pick your poison. They have great receivers, and outstanding tailback, and an athletic quarterback. They have a great offensive scheme and a balanced offense."

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