

Stovall's 23 Points Paces Lady Raiders in Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Freshman Tia Stovall had a career and season high 23 points in Middle Tennessee's (2-1) 95-70 win over East Tennessee (1-5) on Monday in Murphy Center.

Stovall, a forward from Winchester, TN, paced six Lady Raiders in double figure scoring. She was 10-of-12 from the field and also led the team, with a career-high nine rebounds and also had five steals.



Sophomore Patrice Holmes had 15 points, Eboni Kirby and Paula Penttila had 12, Tiffany Fisher added 11 and Jennifer Justice drained 10 points. Holmes led the team in assists with five and also had four steals.

Middle Tennessee shot a scorching 59 percent from the field as opposed to the Lady Bucs 45 percent for the game. The Lady Raiders also snagged 18 steals as a team.

The Lady Raiders head back out on the road on Friday when the team travels to Manhattan, Kansas to take on No. 2 Kansas State in the Wildcat Classic. Tip-off is set for 5 p.m.

Game Notes and Quotes

UPPING THE RECORD: The Lady Raiders improved to 16-3 all-time against East Tennessee with tonight's 95-70 victory, including 9-1 at Murphy Center.

LOVIN' HOME COURT: The Lady Raiders upped their all-time mark in season openers to 19-9 with the victory, and head coach Stephany Smith evened her mark at 3-3 in home openers, alternating losses and wins over her six seasons at the helm. The squad also improved to 48-17 overall under Smith at Murphy Center.

START ME UP: Sophomore Patrice Holmes started her 32nd straight contest, which is every game in her season-plus career as a Lady Raider. The Bishopville, S.C., native also scored 15 points, giving her double figures in 22 contests in her career.

THAT'S TWO: Sophomore Eboni Kirby drew her second consecutive start of the season, while

freshman Tiffany Fisher saw her first start of the year and 11 of her career.

SENIOR STARTS: Senior Mia Parviainen had her third start in as many games this season after starting just one contest in an injury-filled junior campaign. Fellow senior Paula Penttila drew her eighth consecutive start dating to last season and the 63rd of her career.

FRESHMAN DOUBLES: Freshman Tia Stovall scored in double figures for the third straight game and set a new season-high with 23 points.

SIX IS GOOD FOR ME: A season-high six Lady Raiders scored in double-figures, led by Stovall's 23. Patrice Holmes added 15 with Paula Penttila and Eboni Kirby chipping in 12 apiece. Tiffany Fisher had 11 points and Jennifer Justice added 10.

SNAGGING THE BALL: Patrice Holmes grabbed a team-high and tied her season-high with seven rebounds in the victory.

HAND IT OVER: The Lady Raiders forced East Tennessee into 31 turnovers, the most this season by a Middle Tennessee opponent and the most since Tennessee State committed 33 turnovers on November 16, 2001.

Head Coach Stephany Smith

"It was a great atmosphere in here tonight. It means a lot to our team and it gives us a great home court presence. Our kids' faces just lit up when they came out and saw the crowd."

"I was really disappointed after the first seven or eight minutes. We got sloppy and showed a lack of discipline. We didn't box out very well and they had 12 offensive rebounds in the first half alone. I was proud of the way we came out of the locker room at the half. We had a much better effort during the second half."

Forward Tia Stovall

"I have to give thanks to our strength and conditioning coach [Darren Edgington]. He could see the talent in us and he tried to get us in shape so we would be able to perform at this level."

"We came out and didn't play our game. Coach Smith talked to us about performing at their level instead of the level we knew we could play at. I have to agree with what she told us about it at halftime and getting us to play the way we're supposed to play."

East Tennessee Head Coach Karen Kemp

"We knew coming into the game tonight that their strength was taking the ball to the hole. We didn't execute our game plan by defending the penetration."