Lady Raiders Drop Nail Biter 62-60

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MANHATTAN, Kan. - Middle Tennessee (2-3) fell 62-60 against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (3-4) in the consolation game of the Wildcat Classic Saturday in Bramlage Coliseum.

Sophomore Patrice Holmes had a chance for the win in the final two seconds of the game, but her three-point attempt hit the rim and rolled off. The Lady Raiders tied the game on a Holmes monster three with 11 seconds left to play in the second half. A foul called on senior guard Paula Penttila put Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Jessisca Wilhite at the free throw line and she drained both to give the Lady Panthers the lead and the win.

Wisconsin-Milwaukee led by as much as 11 points in the second half, but a strong 9-0 run by the Lady Raiders in the end of the second half, put Middle Tennessee back in the game. Middle Tennessee had a season low 14 turnovers in the game and but was out rebounded by the Lady Panthers 34-31.

Holmes, who was named to the Wildcat Classic All-Tournament Team, had a season-high 25 points in the game and also snagged four rebounds and dished out a career-high six assists. Sophomore Eboni Kirby was the only other Lady Raider in double figures with 10.

Middle Tennessee opened the game on a 5-0 run but Wisconsin-Milwaukee roared back and went on a 14-0 lead to balloon the lead to move ahead by eight. The Lady Raiders went on a run of their own 9-7 and tied it 26-26 with an Kirby lay-up with 2:13 left to play in the first.

In the final two minutes, the Lady Panthers went on another mini run 8-3 to move back ahead 34-29. The Lady Raiders shot a frosty 35 percent from the field in contrast to Wisconsin-Milwaukee's even 50 percent.

The Lady Raiders will be back in action on Saturday when Middle Tennessee travels to Orangeburg, South Carolina to take on South Carolina State. Tip-off is set for 4 p.m.

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