

Lady Raiders Down South Carolina State 70-57

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ORANGEBURG, S.C. - Every Middle Tennessee (3-3) player saw minutes in the Lady Raiders 70-57 win over South Carolina State University (2-3) Saturday in Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center.

After falling behind early in the first half, Middle Tennessee used a 14-0 run in the middle of the first half to build a 25 point lead (43-18) and never looked back. Scoring was distributed around the roster as all but one Lady Raider made it into the scoring column. It was also a homecoming for South Carolina natives Patrice Holmes and Jennifer Justice who had numerous family members in the stands.

"I think it were are going to come this way more often with the kind of support we had in the stands from Patrice and Jennifer's family," said head coach Stephany Smith. "It was nice to hear Lady Raider chants on the road."

Middle Tennessee committed a season-high 31 turnovers and allowed South Carolina State to creep back into the game in the second half. The Lady Raiders kept the game out of reach from the Lady Bulldogs by shooting 49 percent shooting as opposed to the Lady Bulldogs 26 percent.

The Lady Raiders were led in scoring by sophomore Eboni Kirby who had 16 points. Three other Middle Tennessee players scored in double figures with Keisha McClinic scoring 14, Patrice Holmes hitting on 13 and Jennifer Justice with 10.

"We struggled with turnovers and it let them get back into the game a little," Smith said. "We are going to take this game and work with and try to prepare for South Carolina."

It was also released today that freshman Melissa Weiland will redshirt the 2002-03 season. The 5-10 guard from Murfreesboro, TN had surgery to repair a torn meniscus prior to pre-season workouts and hasn't progressed as quickly as they hoped in rehabilitation.

"Melissa and I have discussed it and decided she should sit out this season and let her knee heal slowly," Smith said. "I believe taking a redshirt will help her rest and prevent any worries for a long term injury if she came back too soon."

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