Stovall Scores Double-Double in Lady Raider Win

December 19, 2002 · MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Freshman Tia Stovall had the first double-double of her career-high with 27 points and 11 rebounds as Middle Tennessee (4-4) defeated Memphis (5-4) 89-83 Thursday in Murphy Center.

With the Lady Raiders clinging to a one point lead (84-83) with 25 seconds left to play, senior Paula Penttila iced the game with two big free throws. Middle Tennessee was 5-of-6 from the free throw line in the final seconds of the game to pull away from the Lady Tigers.

Stovall's 27 points and 11 rebounds were career-highs for the forward from Winchester, TN. Patrice Holmes also scored over 20 points with 23, making it the first time this season Middle Tennessee has had two players score 20 or more points. Tiffany Fisher was the other Lady Raider who scored in double figures with 13.

Middle Tennessee shot a season-high 57 percent from the field and also hit a season-high 22 free throws. The Lady Raiders shot a scorching 64 percent from the field in the first half.

The Lady Raiders continue their home stand when they host Lipscomb on Sunday December 22. Tip-off is set for 2 p.m.

POSTGAME NOTES
MIDDLE TENNESSEE VS MEMPHIS

FLIRTING WITH A TRIPLE DOUBLE: Sophomore Patrice Holmes had one of her best all-around games ever by pouring in 23 points, grabbing eight rebounds and handing out a career-high nine assists. Holmes' eight boards matched her season-high and her 23 points marked the fifth time in

her career she has topped the 20-point plateau.

CAREER-HIGHS FOR STOVALL: True freshman Tia Stovall set personal bests in scoring and rebounding against Memphis. Stovall, who hit 11 of 16 shots from the field, tallied a team-high 27 points to go with 11 boards. It marked the first double-double of her brief career.

FISHER ON THE BOARDS: Tiffany Fisher came off the bench tonight to grab nine boards, which equaled her career best total. The Jackson, TN, native also tallied 13 points, two assists and two steals.

FIRST HALF EXPLOSION: The Lady Raiders enjoyed their best offensive half of the year during the first 20 minutes against Memphis. Middle Tennessee scored a season-high 46 points, shot a sizzling 64.3 percent from the field and ripped down 20 rebounds.

WHERE IS THE MURPH? Tonight's game against Memphis was only the second home game of the year for the Lady Raiders. Besides the Memphis contest, the only other time the Lady Raiders have played at home this year was on Dec. 2 against East Carolina.

HOMESTAND: Tonight's game against Memphis is the first of eight straight the Lady Raiders will play at home. Next up for Middle Tennessee will be Sunday's contest versus Lipscomb. The home stretch will continue through Jan. 11 vs UALR.

THIS 'N' THAT: The Lady Raiders ripped down a season-high 41 rebounds and dominated on the board with a +15 advantage on the glass ... The Lady Raiders are now averaging 92.0 points a game at home this season ... The team's 22 assists matched their season high ... The Lady Raiders had 22 assists and 32 field goals (69 percent).

Quotes

Head Coach Stephany Smith: "I'm really proud of our team tonight. I was concerned that we might not be ready to play. The first few minutes it showed that we might not be quite ready, but several different players stepped up at different times tonight. We probably played as hard as we have all year."

"We have had a lot of problems this year with turnovers. We still have to do a better job of taking care of the ball. We can't be lazy and lackadaisical, especially against a team like Memphis."

Guard Patrice Holmes: "We thought it would be a tough game tonight. Last year, we went into overtime with them and they were very athletic then."

Forward Tia Stovall: "I can't give myself all the credit tonight. I have to thank all of my teammates for getting me the ball. I kept finding opportunities to get the ball to the hole and I did. This game helps prove to us that we can be a good team."