Middle Tennessee Falls to No. 24 Georgia 79-43

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's basketball (6-5) fell 79-43 to No. 24 Georgia (7-4) Monday in Murphy Center.

After being tied 7-7 in the first half, Georgia went on a 21-9 run to end the first half and ran away with the game. Middle Tennessee shot a frosty 28.1 percent from the field and only grabbed 32 rebounds. Georgia, in contrast hit 54.8 percent of their field goals and snagged 45 rebounds.

Sophomore Tiffany Fisher was the only Lady Raider to score in double figures with 11 points and also led the Lady Raiders in rebounds with nine. Patrice Holmes was denied double figure points for the first time this season as she only poured in eight points in the game.

Middle Tennessee will open Sun Belt Conference play on Saturday when the Lady Raiders host Western Kentucky on Saturday. Double-header action begins at 4:30 p.m. for the women and concludes with the men at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of Murphy Center.

POSTGAME NOTES
MIDDLE TENNESSEE VS NO. 24 GEORGIA

FISHER TIES REBOUND MARK: Tiffany Fisher equaled her personal best with nine rebounds against Georgia. It marked the third time in her career she has hauled in nine boards in a single game.

OFF THE MARK: Middle Tennessee shot a season-low 28.1 percent from the field tonight against the Lady Bulldogs. It marked the worst shooting effort since making just 17.7 percent of their shots against UT-Martin on Jan. 5, 1998.

STREAK OVER: Tonight's loss to nationally-ranked Georgia ended Middle Tennessee's eight-game home winning streak. The last time MT lost a game at the Murphy Center prior to tonight's setback was on Jan. 19, 2002 against North Texas.

THIS 'N' THAT: Georgia is the fourth ranked opponent the Lady Raiders have faced this season ... Georgia scored 23 points off of 16 Middle Tennessee turnovers compared to MT's five points off of 14 UGA miscues ... The Lady Raiders attempted a season-high 29 three-pointers, which is also their most in a game since putting up the same number against Tennessee Tech on Dec. 9, 2001 ... The Lady Raiders were outrebounded by a season-high 13 caroms.

NEXT UP: The Lady Raiders will now begin conference play against Western Kentucky on Jan. 4. Tipoff is scheduled for 4:30 PM at the Murphy Center and will be the first game of a men's and women's doubleheader with the Hilltoppers.

QUOTES:

Middle Tennessee Head Coach Stephany Smith
"We just had a bad night shooting the basketball. When you don't make shots, it's tough. It's not that we turned it over a lot. We just missed shots. We missed shots that were wide-open. And when you already have mismatch disadvantages to start with, then obviously it creates a lot of difficulties."

"We had some good looks at the basket and that's disappointing, but we are a very good-shooting basketball team and have the potential for anybody to knock down shots on any given night. Then once we quit making shots, we quit taking shots. Then we're scrambling around with five seconds left on the shot clock trying to throw up a prayer."

Georgia is absolutely by far the best team we've played, and definitely the worst match-up for us. They match out athleticism and then some. They obviously have a lot more size than we do. And though they weren't necessarily a great-shooting team from the three-point line tonight, they shot a really good percentage because they got easy looks at the basket. But their zone defense is something. It almost plays like a man-to-man."

Georgia Head Coach Andy Landers
"In this basketball game tonight, we played with Kara [Braxton] and without Ebony [Felder] and without some key players, and this was a good game for us to win. Hopefully our basketball team realizes this is about more than one player. Everyone wants to be a part of that and maybe Kara can come back and contribute along those lines."

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