

Holmes Scores Career-High 28 in Loss

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Sophomore Patrice Holmes scored a career-high 28 points in Middle Tennessee's (7-6) 78-68 loss to Austin Peay (7-3) Monday in Murphy Center.

Trailing by 19 at the half (44-25), Middle Tennessee scored 20 points off of Lady Gov turnovers to fight its way back into the game. With 3:47 left to play, in the second half, junior Keisha McClinic tied the game (61-61), and then sophomore Eboni Kirby gave the Lady Raiders the lead 63-61 off a lay-up from Holmes with 3:17 to play. Austin Peay countered with eight unanswered points to pull away for the win.

Middle Tennessee had 11 steals in the contest and was a perfect 11-for-11 from the free throw line. Overall Austin Peay shot 49 percent from the field and the Lady Raiders hit 43 percent. Holmes' 28 points led all scorers and tied her career high for field goals made with 10 and set a new career high for field goal attempts with 22. Other Lady Raiders in double figures included Eboni Kirby with 12 and Mia Parviainen with 10.

Middle Tennessee returns to Sun Belt action on Thursday when the Lady Raiders host



Arkansas State. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. in Murphy Center. Notes:

STREAK SNAPPED: The Lady Raiders dropped to 48-8 all-time against Austin Peay with the 78-68 defeat, including 24-3 at Murphy Center. The loss snapped a two-game winning streak against the Lady Govs. APSU's last win over the Lady Raiders was a 67-58 triumph in the OVC Tournament on March 4, 2000, and their last win in Murfreesboro was earlier that season, a 74-68 win on January 20, 2000.

BAILEY'S WONDERFUL MINUTES: Redshirt freshman Cartia Bailey logged a season-high 20 minutes in the contest. Her previous high this season was 13 at South Carolina State. Bailey hit a driving layup with three minutes remaining in the first half to net the first points of her career. The Fayetteville, Tenn., native finished the contest with four points, four rebounds and two assists.

HOLMES' CAREER MARK: Sophomore Patrice Holmes set a career-high with 28 points in the game. It was the sixth 20-point game of her career and the third this season. The Bishopville, S.C., native tied her career-high with 10 made field goals, the fourth time she's done that in 42 career outings, and set a career-high with 22 field goal attempts. She also set another career-high with 11 three-point attempts in the contest. Her only two assists of the game came late in the second half, the first to Keisha McClinic that tied the game and then a few seconds later to Eboni Kirby, giving the Lady Raiders a brief lead they could not hold.

FALLING BEHIND: The Lady Raiders fell to 0-6 this season when trailing at halftime.

44 MOST: The 44 points scored by Austin Peay in the first half was the most allowed in the opening 20 minutes this season by the Lady Raiders.

MIA'S THREES: Mia Parviainen tied her season-high for the third time this season with a pair of three-point field goals in the contest.

TREY SHOTS: Austin Peay shot .538 (7-13) percent from behind the three-point line in the game, only the second team this season to shoot better than 50 percent from behind the arc. Cincinnati made 9-of-15 trifectas earlier in the year. CHARITY

PREFECTO: The Lady Raiders were a perfect 11-for-11 from the foul line in the game.

QUOTES:

MT Head Coach Stephany Smith: "I am a little disappointed in myself to be quite honest. In the last five minutes, we fought so hard. We had to fight from behind for 35 minutes. We fought so hard in the second half and gave ourselves a chance and took the lead." "They have tremendous shooters. All four of their perimeter players shoot 40 percent or higher beyond the three-point line. It is a hard threat to defend. They drive and kick and you have to help on penetration. You have to be tight on them, because if you are not tight on them they have a lot of range on their shots."

MT Guard Patrice Holmes: "It is disappointing because we didn't show up to play in the first half like Coach Smith said. We fought back in the second half and almost gave us a chance to win." MT

Forward Eboni Kirby: "At halftime Coach [Smith] talked about us not being focused and ready to

play. In the second half, we knew we had to make a change or we wouldn't be in a position to win the game."

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