MT Gets Road Win Over ASU 65-58

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FIRST TIMES: Thursday night's win over Arkansas State marks the first time that the Blue Raiders have ever won a game in Jonesboro. The win also gives the Blue Raiders their first 2-0 start in league play since joining the Sun Belt three seasons ago. The perfect conference beginning is the first for Middle Tennessee since starting out 2-0 in the OVC during the 1998-99 campaign.

PIPPEN HOMECOMING: Hamburg, Ark., native William Pippen enjoyed his first game of the Blue Raiders' two-game swing through his home state. Pippen posted his second straight double-double with 13 points and a career-high 11 rebounds. Pippen's double-double was the third of his career. The game was the eighth straight in which Pippen has paced the Blue Raiders on the glass.

GUNN LEADS SCORERS: Junior Tommy Gunn quietly posted his seventh career 20-point scoring night against Arkansas State on Thursday. Gunn bucketed 21 points against ASU, giving him two games this season in which he has scored 20 or more. Gunn has now led the Blue Raiders in scoring 16 times in his career and has netted double figures in 43 contests.

CLEANING THE GLASS: The Blue Raiders grabbed 43 rebounds against the Indians, while limiting ASU to only 27 for a difference of 16 boards. The Blue Raiders have now had the advantage on the boards in 10 games this season, including five of the last six. The rebounding margin was the largest for the Blue Raiders since grabbing 17 more boards than Christian Brothers on Dec. 18.

TIP-INS: Middle Tennessee has limited the opposition to a field goal percentage of 36.5 percent in two Sun Belt matchups ...MT's point guards combined for seven assists and one turnover against ASU ... MT held ASU without a field goal for the first 7:58 of the first half ... The Blue Raiders outrebounded the Indians 18-9 in the second half.

NEXT UP: Middle Tennessee's Arkansas swing continues on Saturday when the Blue Raiders tip off

against Arkansas-Little Rock at 7 PM.

QUOTES

Head Coach Kermit Davis: "I was proud of the way we defended and rebounded. The first half was ugly on both teams' part. I thought their defensive effort was why we shot so poorly and likewise."

Forward William Pippen: "This year's team plays really hard on the road. We come into other people's gyms and come out playing hard to give ourselves a chance to win."

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