Lady Raiders Get Road Win Over North Texas

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DENTON, Texas - Middle Tennessee women's basketball (12-10, 5-4 SBC) picked up a key conference win on the road with a 70-56 victory over North Texas (8-12, 3-6 SBC) on Thursday in the Super Pit.

The Lady Raiders halted a six-game Sun Belt Conference losing streak on the road, which dated back to February 2, 2002. The win was also the first in school history over the Lady Eagles (1-3).

Trailing at the half, 27-24, Middle Tennessee opened the second half with a 14-2 run in the first five minutes to build a lead North Texas could never overcome. Earlier in the first half, North Texas broke up a Lady Raider lead when Middle Tennessee went seven minutes without scoring and the Lady Eagles capitalized with a 12-0 run.

"We just weren't playing very aggressive in the first half," said Head Coach Stephany Smith. "But we really fought hard in the second half and I am proud for the way we came back."

The Lady Raiders were assisted by the return of freshman forward Tia Stovall, who sat out 10 games with a broken bone in her foot. She played 25 minutes, scoring nine points, pulling down three rebounds and snagging three steals.

Redshirt freshman Cartia Bailey picked up her second straight start and proved her worth on defense. The guard from Fayetteville, Tenn. pounded the glass for a career-high 10 rebounds and had eight points and shot 2-of-2 from the three-point line.

"Cartia plays with a lot of fight and it shows in practice and in games," Smith said. "It is nice to see her hard work pay off and see her success on the court."

Not to be forgotten was the strong play of junior Keisha McClinic who scored 10 points for Middle Tennessee. Her key baskets at crucial times during the games, including a big three point shot with

1:12 left to play in the first half really sparked the team.

Sophomore sensation Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 18 points as she was 5-of-12 from the field and 7-of-9 from the charity stripe. She also pulled down eight rebounds and had three steals.

Middle Tennessee returns home to the friendly confines of Murphy Center to host Sun Belt West opponent Denver on Saturday. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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