Lady Raiders Come Away With Win at UALR

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - Middle Tennessee (15-10, 8-4 SBC) picked up another key Sun Belt victory on the road with a 69-52 win over Arkansas-Little Rock (5-19, 0-11) Saturday in Trojan Fieldhouse.

After playing three straight close contests, Middle Tennessee pulled ahead and never relinquished the lead to UALR. The biggest question to start the game was who would score first as there wasn't a bucket made by either team until Paula Penttila hit a jumper at the 15:55 mark.

Middle Tennessee held UALR to just nine offensive boards and the Lady Raiders grabbed 29 defensive rebounds. Overall the Lady Raiders pounded the glass for 49 rebounds, which is a season high for Middle Tennessee.

"I thought we did a good job keeping them off the boards," said head coach Stephany Smith. "We did a great job early in the game, holding them to zero offensive rebounds in the first half."

Senior Penttila scored in double figures for the second straight game as she recorded a season high 17 points and was 6-of-6 from the free throw line. Patrice Holmes had 13 points and nine rebounds, and snagged four steals, which leaves her needing just 10 steals to become the all-time leader for steals in a season.

The win puts the pressure on Sun Belt East foe Florida International who is one game ahead of Middle Tennessee for second place. The Lady Raiders will try and take over second place when Middle Tennessee hosts the Panthers at on February 22. Senior day activities and tip-off is set for 2 p.m.

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