Stovall Scores 20 in Lady Raider Loss

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Freshman Tia Stovall's 20 points paced all scorers in Middle Tennessee's (16-11, 9-5 Sun Belt) 84-73 loss to Western Kentucky (19-8, 12-2 Sun Belt) on Saturday in E.A. Diddle Arena.

The loss snaps a five game winning streak by the Lady Raiders and Western Kentucky increases their winning streak to 11. It seemed the Lady Raiders were in jeopardy of being swarmed by the Lady Toppers as the second half began.

After Western Kentucky built a 14 point lead with a 11-2 run to start the second half, Middle Tennessee proved why they are one of the hottest teams in the Sun Belt Conference when they went on a 14-0 run to tie the game at 58 with 11:23 left to play. Senior Mia Parviainen began the run for the Lady Raiders when she scored five straight points.

It was nip and tuck the rest of the game until Western Kentucky built back an eight point lead with 5:40 left to play. Middle Tennessee pulled within six two times but could never get any closer.

Stovall showed she could have been a top contender for Freshman of the Year, if not for her injury earlier in the season, as along with her 20 points she was 7-of-13 from the field and 6-of-7 from the free throw line. She also ripped down four rebounds, dished out four assists and snagged two steals.

Two other Lady Raiders scored in double figures with Patrice Holmes knocking down 17 points and Eboni Kirby adding 15. Holmes picked off three steals and is now just five steals away from taking over the top spot in the Lady Raider record books for steals in a season.

Middle Tennessee will spend the week preparing for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Bowling Green, Ky. The Lady Raiders, as the No. 2 seed, receive a first round bye and will play on Sunday March 9 at 11 a.m. against No. 3 seed from the West New Orleans.

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