Lady Raiders Advance to Finals

March 10, 2003 · MT Media Relations

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - No. 2 seed from the East Middle Tennessee women's basketball (18-11) advanced to the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship with a 65-52 victory over No. 4 seed from the East Arkansas State (12-18) Monday in Diddle Arena.

Sophomore Patrice Holmes scored 20 or more points for the second game in a row as she posted 26 points against Arkansas State. At the charity stripe, Holmes was 10-of-10, with six of her free throws coming in the final minute of the game. Her two steals puts her at 90 for the season and she is just two shy of overtaking the record for steals in a season.

Middle Tennessee won the battle of the boards against Arkansas State, as the Lady Raiders grabbed 47 rebounds to the Lady Indian's 30. On the defensive side alone, MT had 35 rebounds to ASU's 18.

In the first six minutes of the game, Middle Tennessee built a 14-2 lead with the inside outside play of Holmes, Mia Parviainen and Tia Stovall. Parviainen had 11 points for the Lady Raiders, the same number of points she scored at Arkansas State on February 13.
Stovall posted double figure points, with 10, for the third game in a row and also had four assists and seven rebounds.

The Lady Raiders will play the winner of the game between South Alabama and Western Kentucky at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Notes of the Game:

WE MADE IT: Middle Tennessee advances to the finals of the Sun Belt Championships for the first time in school history.

THE CHASTAIN CONNECTION: The last time Middle Tennessee advanced to a tournament final was 1998 when the Lady Raiders won the OVC Championship by defeating UT Martin 59-58. It just so happened to be the freshman year of Kelly Chastain, who is now a graduate assistant for Middle Tennessee.

PERFECT FROM THE LINE: Middle Tennessee was perfect from the free throw line in the second half, hitting 14-of-14.

WHAT'S MY AVERAGE: Holmes is averaging 27 points per game in the tournament.

Printed on July 30, 2014
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/1803