MT vs. FAU: Postgame Notes

August 29, 2003 · MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee allowed a touchdown with no time on the clock to end the game on the short end of a 20-19 final score.

Season Openers: The Blue Raiders opened the season at home tonight, marking the first time in the 1-A era that Middle Tennessee had kicked off the season in the friendly confines of Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders now own a record of 54-31-2 in season debuts. The team has now compiled a record of 241-89-13 in Floyd Stadium.

Dominant D: Middle Tennessee's defensive unit was clearly the bright spot for the Blue Raiders tonight. As a unit, the D punished FAU with five sacks, two interceptions, and a fumble recovery. All told, the defensive effort led to 10 of the 19 Blue Raider points in the game.

More on the D: The defense collected five sacks against the Owls to rank fourth on the all-time single game list tonight. Devarick Scandrett led the team with two sacks, while four other Blue Raiders took the quarterback down over the course of the game.

Lynch Has Big Night: Senior LB Brandon Lynch turned in quite a performance against FAU. The Augusta, GA, native picked off his second career pass in the second quarter, setting up a Blue Raider field goal. Lynch later recovered a fumbled punt. Lynch also turned in nine tackles in the contest. For his efforts, Lynch was named the Alexander Automotive Family Player of the Game, an award voted on by members of the working media.

Hines Keys Offense: Blue Raider signal-caller Andrico Hines posted a solid night in his senior

season debut. The Riverdale, GA, native was 19-of-34 passing tonight for 160 yards and a TD. Hines completion total was one shy of his personal best of 20 set last year against Southeast Missouri. Hines tossed passes to eight different receivers in the contest. Hines also ran for 16 yards.

McAfee Makes it Count: Fullback Nick McAfee made his second career reception count tonight. The junior from Marietta, GA, hauled in a 10-yard pass from Andrico Hines in the second quarter for the Blue Raider's first TD of 2003. The touchdown is the first in McAfee's career. The 10-yard grab also bested McAfee's former long of four yards.

Gross Has Solid Debut: The Blue Raiders racked up 183 yards rushing against FAU, and redshirt freshman Eugene Gross ended the night as the team's leading rusher. Gross carried the ball 19 times for a total of 87 yards and a touchdown. Starter Don Calloway also had a solid performance with 84 yards on 14 rushes.

Wright Has Career Night: Redshirt junior receiver Kerry Wright turned in a career performance against FAU. The East Point, GA, native hauled in a career best eight catches for 85 yards. The long play of the night for Wright was 22 yards. Wright's previous bests came against Idaho when he caught two passes for 68 yards.

Quick Hitters: When the Blue Raiders hit the field tonight, there were no names on the backs of their jerseys, marking the first time under Andy McCollum that the players weren't identified in that manner ... DL Jonathan Callahan made his first career start tonight against FAU ... Redshirt freshman Bobby Payne made his presence felt early with his first career sack in the team's first defensive series ... Redshirt freshman Colby Smith booted his first career punt in the first quarter ... Senior RB Don Calloway made his first career start tonight ... True freshman Clinton Corder started at tight end this evening ... Redshirt freshman Sam Williams hauled in his first career reception in the second quarter.

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