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Three Players in Double Figures in Women's 102-48 Victory

Chrissy Givens, Brandi Brown, Amber Holt all tally double-digits in exhibition victory

Jo Jo Freeman

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - **Chrissy Givens** had 17 points and freshman **Brandi Brown** knocked down four 3-pointers and added 19 points in Middle Tennessee's 102-48 exhibition victory Wednesday night over Henderson State at Murphy Center.

The Blue Raiders shot 51 percent for the game, including 56 percent (18-for-32) in the second half. Middle Tennessee used 13 players in the contest, with all but one tallying points.

Givens was 7-for-11 from the floor and grabbed a game-high eight rebounds, as the Blue Raiders won the battle of the boards to the tune of 42-30. Givens also handed out six assists and added five steals, a veritable stat-sheet stuffer line for the senior.

Newcomer **Amber Holt** totaled 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting in just 14 minutes of action.

But the story of the game may have been Brown, who was 6-for-11 from the floor, including 4-for-9 from behind the arc. The Jamestown, Tenn., native added three rebounds and two assists in 25 minutes.

Junior **Lakira Boyd** had eight points and five rebounds in a start, while freshman **Jackie Pickel** added seven points and four boards for the winners.

Henderson State was led by Sierra Dawson's 13 points, with Katie Matingly adding 11 points. Ashley Perry added seven points and seven rebounds for the Lady Reddies.

The two teams swapped baskets for the first six minutes of the game, with the Blue Raiders holding a 16-11 advantage before a 10-2 run over a three-minute period stretched the lead to 13. Middle Tennessee also scored 12 of the final 16 points of the half, including a Givens three-pointer at the buzzer for a 49-27 halftime advantage.

Middle Tennessee opens the regular season Friday, November 10 at Murphy Center, hosting the defending national champion and top-ranked Maryland at 7 p.m.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Middle Tennessee Head Coach Rick Insell

(thoughts about the first exhibition game of the season)

"We played a little bit more aggressive than we did Sunday. **Amber Holt** gave us some good minutes early. We didn't want to play Chrissy [Givens] as much as we did. Amber [Holt] came out and gave us 10 or 12 points in a row. Our guards picked it up. The front of



Senior Krystle Horton and the Blue Raiders opened the season with a 102-48 exhibition victory Wednesday night over Henderson State at Murphy Center. (Bradley Lambert)

our press was a little bit weak. We got better. We have a long way to go. We've got some kids that work hard and buy in to what we want. They are fun to coach. This is the beginning of this year and we are going to have a great year."

Senior Guard Chrissy Givens

(on her thoughts about Wednesday's evening's performance)

"I think the effort was there. Like coach said we've got a lot of improving to do. When you see a group of girls giving effort, you don't worry about the offense as much because we are playing with a lot of heart. It was good to see that because we didn't have any of that Sunday. We still have a lot to do but as long as the heart and effort is there, it will come."

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