Givens Nets Double-Double in 68-50 Victory

Blue Raiders win third game away from home this season

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COOKEVILLE, Tenn. - Chrissy Givens recorded her second double-double of the season with 22 points and 11 rebounds and Starr Orr added 12 points, leading four Middle Tennessee players in double figures in a 68-50 victory over Tennessee Tech at Eblen Center Wednesday night. The Blue Raiders shot just 41 percent from the field but forced 20 Golden Eagles turnovers and recording 11 steals. Amber Holt and Brandi Brown both added 10 points for Middle Tennessee, with Holt grabbing eight boards. The Blue Raiders got off to a slow start and shot the ball very poorly in the first half, making just 36 percent from the field. But a 13-2 run between the third and final media timeouts of the half put Middle Tennessee ahead, with Orr netting seven of the points to put the Blue Raiders ahead for good. Middle Tennessee led 32-23 at halftime, scoring 16 of the final 25 points of the half over the last 7:43. In the second half Givens scored 14 of her 22 points, including eight-in-a-row at one point. Tennessee Tech got as close as 11 early in the second half, but the Blue Raiders pulled away. "We missed some shots early, but I knew [Tennessee Tech] would play better and shoot the ball better at home and they did," head coach Rick Insell said. "It's easier to execute and play better defense at home. "Both teams played hard and it was a good game. We hit a spurt defensively in the first half and got some easy lay-ups. We quit settling for the jump shot and took the ball to the glass and used our athleticism." Middle Tennessee returns home Monday for a 5 p.m. contest against former OVC rival Austin Peay. The game is the first of a doubleheader with the men, who take on Tennessee State. **POSTGAME NOTES**

ANOTHER DOUBLE-DOUBLE: Senior Chrissy Givens recorded her second double-double of the season and the seventh of her career with 22 points and 11 rebounds in the victory. Givens was 9-

for-18 from the field and pulled down nine defensive rebounds. The Monroe, La., native also posted five assists and two steals. It was her fifth 20-plus point game in a row and fifth this season. Givens' other double-double this season was a 23-point, 13-rebound effort against Maine on November 18 at the Subway Classic in Minneapolis, Minn. **GIVENS MOVES UP STEALS LIST:** Senior Chrissy Givens moved into seventh place on the career steals list with two thefts in the contest. Givens moved past Jennifer McFall (205, 1982-85) and now has 206 career thefts. The figure also ranks 23rd in the history of the Sun Belt Conference. She needs three more steals to pass Ginger Bennett (208, 1985-89) of South Florida for 22nd all-time in conference history. **TURNOVERS AGAIN A KEY FACTOR:** Middle Tennessee forced 20 turnovers in the contest and turned them into 19 points in the 68-50 victory. For the season the Blue Raiders have forced 154 turnovers in seven games, or 22 per game by the opposition, and turned them into 162 points. Middle Tennessee also has 72 steals in the seven outings, or just over 10 per contest, after posting 11 thefts in the win over Tennessee Tech. **TIDBITS:** Middle Tennessee improved to 40-29 all-time against Tennessee Tech and 10-22 at the Eblen Center. The Blue Raiders have won four of the last five in the series and picked up their first victory in Cookeville since November 25, 2002 ... Middle Tennessee won for the third time away from home this season in four outings after posting just five wins away from Murphy Center last season. The Blue Raiders have victories at Minnesota and Tennessee Tech and versus Maine, all away from the friendly confines of home, in the month of November ... Johnna Abney took her first shot of the season from inside the 3-point line with a baseline jumper in the waning minutes of the contest. For the season Abney is shooting 50 percent from behind the arc (16-for-32) ... Freshman Brandi Brown hit two more 3-pointers in the game and has eight in the last three games. Brown tallied 10 points in the contest, his second straight double-figure outing.

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