Raiders Score Team Win in Route of Austin Peay

Holt, Givens both score 19, Horton adds 10 rebounds

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Amber Holt and Chrissy Givens both scored 19 points and Krystle Horton grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds, as Middle Tennessee forced 31 turnovers in an 80-49 victory over Austin Peay Monday night at Murphy Center. Holt netted 13 points in the first half and was 9-for-18 from the field to go along with nine rebounds and five steals in just 27 minutes. Givens played just 18 minutes in the contest before fouling out, scoring 14 points in the second half with four assists. A total of 13 Blue Raiders played in the contest, with 11 scoring. Starr Orr netted nine points, while Horton had eight and the 10 boards and Brandi Brown tallied seven. Middle Tennessee shot 52 percent from the field in the contest and outrebounded the Lady Govs, 35-20. The Blue Raiders turned the 31 APSU turnovers into 38 points and led by as many as 36 points in the second half. Middle Tennessee also had a season-high 22 steals in the contest. Breana Link led the Lady Govs with 18 points and six rebounds. APSU hit 50 percent from the field for the game but could not overcome the 31 turnovers, 19 of which came in the first half. Givens played just nine minutes because of foul trouble in the first half, but the Blue Raiders led 40-18 at the break thanks to Holt's 13 points. All nine of Orr's points came before halftime. Middle Tennessee returns to action Thursday against eighth-ranked Georgia in Athens, Ga., at 6 p.m. CT at Stegeman Coliseum. The Blue Raiders do not play at home again until Sunday, December 17, against Louisiana-Monroe.

NOTES

THIRD COACH'S SHOW ON TUESDAY: The third edition of The Rick Insell Show will air on Tuesday, December 5, at 8 p.m. on MTTV 10 in Murfreesboro. The show re-airs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week at 8 p.m. on MTTV. The next edition will air on Tuesday, December 19. **ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO RISE:** Each year for the past decade the University of Wisconsin media relations office has compiled an unofficial attendance mark for women's basketball programs around the country. December 4 is the first of the weekly edition this season and Middle Tennessee ranks 14th nationally in average attendance and has played in front of two of the Top 15 crowds in the nation already this year. The Blue Raiders are 14th in average attendance at 5,050 after three home games. Middle Tennessee's game at Tennessee on November 26 drew a crowd of 12,363, the third largest this year in the country, and the Blue Raiders season-opener versus top-ranked Maryland ranks 14th this season with a record-setting mark of 10,010 at Murphy Center. **NEWCOMERS BLOG DEBUTS:** All of the Middle Tennessee newcomers will post blogs at GoBlueRaiders.com during the season, beginning with freshman Chelsia Lymon this week. Lymon talks about the adjustments to college life and the difference in the game of basketball between high school and college. Fans can read Lymon's blog at http://www.goblueraiders.com/blogs/newcomers/. Periodically other newcomers to this year's team will also post new blogs. **POSTGAME NOTES**

HORTON HAS SEASON-HIGH: Senior Krystle Horton ripped down a season-high 10 rebounds in just 22 minutes in the win over Austin Peay. It marked the 11th double figure rebounding game of her career and her first since recording 12 in a home win against FIU last season. **MORE THAN A POINT-A-MINUTE:** Chrissy Givens, who came into the game averaging 39.6 minutes a game, played a season-low 18 minutes in the win over Austin Peay but it did not slow down her production. The senior poured in 19 points on 8-for-11 shooting while also adding four assists. **OWNING THE BOARDS:** A key to Middle Tennessee's dominating performance against APSU was its work on the boards. The Blue Raiders outrebounding APSU 35-20, including an impressive 17-3 advantage on the offensive glass. In all, 10 Blue Raiders recorded at least one carom as Middle Tennessee put together its second largest rebound margin of the season. MT is now 4-0 this season when having more rebounds than the opposition. **GIVENS PASSES NEELEY:** Senior Chrissy Givens collected two steals in the win over APSU to move into sixth place on the all-time list at Middle Tennessee. Givens surpassed Cortney Neeley and now has 208 career thefts and needs only six more to take over fifth place from Jessica McClure. The two steals against APSU also tied Givens with South Florida's Ginger Bennett for 22nd place all-time in the Sun Belt Conference. **QUICK HITTERS:** Rick Insell picked up his 25th win as head coach of the Blue Raiders tonight against Austin Peay ... Middle Tennessee recorded a season-high 22 steals against APSU ... MT improved to 17-3 at home under Rick Insell ... Amber Holt had a career-best five steals against APSU ... Johnna Abney collected a career-best four steals in the win over the Lady Governors. **POSTGAME QUOTES**

Coach Rick Insell

On Middle Tennessee's play in the first half and the playing time of players off the bench

"We've been trying to work a lot of our players in and out all season. When you have a little bit of a lead, there is not a lot of pressure and you can let your other players step up. They executed our offense and made plays when they needed to. Amber [Holt] was able to score some baskets for us and take over. Nineteen points and nine rebounds from Amber, but what really impressed me was the 10 rebounds from Krystle Horton. That is what I've been looking for from her. If we can get her to rebound and do what she did tonight, it will not do anything but help us. Tonight was an overall team victory. We had a few breakdowns, but overall we played great. We were able to get some traps early. We had seen some other teams work the trap on them and it worked well for us." **On Austin Peay**

"They are a good ball club. They were down 20 points to Arkansas and came back to lose by 6. We knew they were good going in. Last year we were up by 18 and they came back and won the game. They taught us a lesson last year that carried over to this year. Carrie [Daniels] has them playing very well. They are going to play very well in the OVC. They are very athletic and were able to beat Tennessee Tech [Saturday] night. **On the pace of the game**
"I was very happy with our pace tonight. We are a 94-foot team. We need to push the ball. When we take it hard to the basket and force them to stop us down low, we can toe it up from the 3-point line. We are not afraid to shoot the three. Jackie Pickel missed three in a row, but we want her to keep shooting. We know we are going to miss some, but we are confidence we can make them as well."
On Middle Tennessee's momentum going into Georgia
"We wanted to build momentum. We didn't want to come in here and squeak out a win. We wanted to build momentum going into Georgia. Anytime you get a win in Division I women's basketball, you should be happy. If you look at the scores around women's basketball, you will notice that anyone can be beat, including us and Georgia as well." **Senior Guard Chrissy Givens**
On tonight's game verse Austin Peay
"I was very comfortable sitting on the bench. We have the type of team that when I do go out, Amber [Holt] is able to pick it up. Since we have two players that get a lot of minutes, it makes you more comfortable when you are on the bench. You love to have nights like tonight where everyone gets to play and plays hard. Overall, we did learn a lesson from Austin Peay beating us last year. Tonight, we were like demons playing the trap. Once we got them down we just wanted to keep on them. Like coach says, once you smell blood, keep going after them." **Junior Forward Amber Holt**
On her role while Chrissy Givens was not in the game
"Both of us are the leading scorers for the team. When one of us is down, the other has to step up. I felt very comfortable when I had to step up." **On intimidating Austin Peay**
"We practiced hard and wanted to bring it to the game. As we did, they started to back down and we kept going." **On her excitement about playing at Georgia**
"I'm very excited! It means a lot to go back and play at home and play for my family and friends. I can't wait." **Austin Peay Head Coach Carrie Daniels**
On Middle Tennessee's defensive pressure
"We knew they were going to be aggressive defensively. We told the girls before the game we've got to be ready to handle the ball and attack their pressure. I thought I saw signs of that in the second half against Tennessee Tech. We took about 10 steps backward. We didn't handle it [the pressure] whatsoever and played passively. We stood and held the ball and let them come and trap us or we dribbled backwards. I was very disappointed in the approach we gave from the tip." **On the execution of the game plan for tonight's game**
"Saturday night [against Tennessee Tech], I felt like was a great game overall and we executed our game plan. We still made mistakes and we still had turnovers, but we executed our overall game plan. Tonight, we executed zero part of our game plan. I had players questioning things in the course of the game on things we had talked about. That showed me ourhead wasn't in it. For whatever reason, we went away from our game plan going into this game." **On playing aggressively**
"How do you shoot 50 percent and get beat by 31? This is the tale that shows us how passive we were. We got 36 shot attempts and they got 68. That shows me that we were very passive and let them put us back on our heels." **On the loss after performing well against Tennessee Tech**
"It is [disappointing]. I told the girls we can't dwell on it and we have to get ready for our next game."

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