Givens Nets 10th Double-Double in 78-50 Victory

Senior sets school-record for steals as does Blue Raider team

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NEW ORLEANS, La. - Chrissy Givens posted 17 points and a school-record 11 steals and three other Middle Tennessee players scored in double figures in a 78-50 victory over New Orleans Saturday, running the 21st-ranked Blue Raiders' winning streak to 12 games. Givens had all 11 thefts in the first half, eclipsing her own school record of nine steals and falling just three shy of the NCAA record. Givens played just 22 minutes in the game, as the Blue Raiders built the lead to as many as 47 points in the second half. Amber Holt scored 14 points and had eight rebounds, while Brandi Brown added 12 points and Starr Orr had 10 points, six boards and four steals. Givens added five rebounds and four assists in the victory, with the 12th consecutive win tying for the third longest winning streak in school history. Middle Tennessee (15-3, 7-0 Sun Belt) forced 40 turnovers by the Privateers and turned those into 51 points in the contest. The Blue Raiders set a school record for steals in a game with 28 and made 10 3-pointers for the eighth time in a contest this season. Brown hit four 3-pointers and Jackie Pickel added a trio of trifectas. "It was really a monumental effort the young ladies gave this week, winning three games in a row on the road," head coach Rick Insell said. "It was really about our defense and effort. It really shows a team's strength and conditioning and being in good physical shape. "The difference in the game was our pressure defense again. We really turned it up and made it tough on [New Orleans]. Our lateral quickness took them totally out of their game." Despite shooting just 35 percent from the field for

most in the first half, the Blue Raiders used their defense as the primary offense, forcing 27 turnovers and turning those in to 32 points. Givens scored 15 and 11 steals after 20 minutes, while Holt added 10. The Blue Raiders had 20 steals as a team in the first half. Middle Tennessee scored 25 of the final 31 points in the half over the final nine minutes, including nine points from Givens and six apiece from Holt and Brown. In the second half Givens and Holt played just seven minutes combined. Middle Tennessee scored started the second half with a 22-4 run and Insell called off the press, giving his team some rest after three games in five days and seven straight days on the road. New Orleans (7-12, 1-7) was led by 17 from Jada Frazier. Middle Tennessee returns home to face Arkansas State on Thursday at 7 p.m. **NOTES**

TAKE A KID TO THE GAME: Middle Tennessee is sponsoring Take a Kid to the Game night on Thursday, January 18 when the Blue Raiders face Arkansas State at 7 p.m. at Murphy Center. Adults purchase a ticket for $7 and your child gets in free. Tickets are available in advance at the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office by calling 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU or they may be purchased the day of the game. Also, the game is Scales Elementary Night with the Scales cheerleaders performing at halftime. **NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY UPCOMING:** Middle Tennessee will host the annual Girls and Women in Sports Day on Saturday, February 3, in conjunction with the women's basketball game against South Alabama that begins at 3 p.m. Interested parties may purchase a $10 that include a game ticket, a hot dog and a soda. A two-hour clinic prior to the game is also part of the day as well as all of the girls begin recognized at halftime of the game. There will also be postgame autographs that day with the team. Call the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office at 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU. **RICK INSELL LIVE SET TO BEGIN JANUARY 15:** Middle Tennessee's weekly radio show with the head coach, Rick Insell Live, will begin Monday, January 15 at 6 p.m. at Bluesboro in downtown Murfreesboro. The one-hour program is hosted by the voice of the Blue Raiders, David Reed, and allows fans in the audience as well as those listening to ask questions of the second-year coach. Shows will run each Monday until the end of the season at Bluesboro on January 15, 22 and 29 and February 5, 12, 19 and 26. **POSTGAME NOTES**

GIVENS, TEAM SET STEALS RECORD: Senior Chrissy Givens posted a single-game school record with 11 steals, all in the first half. Givens bested the previous mark of nine held by both Givens (Eastern Kentucky, 11/25/05) and Sherry Tucker (Austin Peay, 2/20/95). Givens came within three thefts of tying the NCAA record. As a team, Middle Tennessee broke the single-game school mark for steals in a game as well with 28, besting the old mark of 27 set against San Jose State on 12/19/31. **ANOTHER DOUBLE-DOUBLE:** Senior Chrissy Givens posted her fourth double-double of the season and 10th of her career with 17 points and 11 steals. It is the first double-double of her career with double figure points and steals in the same game. Givens' previous high for steals in a game was nine against Eastern Kentucky on November 25, 2005. **HORTON TIES FOR 10TH IN GAMES PLAYED:** Senior Krystle Horton played in her 113th career games Saturday against New Orleans, tying Sherry Smith (1980-83), Tawanya Mucker (1986-89), Carlita Elder (1996-99) and Stephanie Capley (1988-91) for 10th on the all-time list. With one more game played, the Murfreesboro, Tenn., native will tie Heather Prater (1993-96) for ninth on the all-time list. Horton also needs just two more starts to tie Cortney Neeley (97, 1996-99) for 10th on the career starts list. **TURNOVERS AGAIN THE BIG STORY:** Middle Tennessee's full-court press caused 40 turnovers by New Orleans in the game, a season-high for a Blue Raider opponent. Middle Tennessee turned the miscues into 51 points, including a 25-6 run at the end of the first half and a 22-4 run to begin the second half. This season Middle Tennessee is forcing opponents into 27.0 turnovers per game and has scored and average of 30.8 points per game off those miscues. **HOST OF PLAYERS MOVE UP CAREER LISTS:** Senior Krystle Horton scored five points in the contest, moving past former

teammate Tia Stovall (2002-05) and into 11th place on the all-time scoring list. Horton now has 1,355 points in her career ... Senior Chrissy Givens handed out four assists in the game, surpassing Julie Morrison (1990-93) and into seventh on the all-time list. Givens has 371 career assists ... Givens made three free throws in the contest, passing Heather Prater (1993-96) and tying Stephanie Capley (1988-91) for ninth on the career free throws made list with 280 ... Johnna Abney hit one 3-pointer in the game, moving past Keisha McClinic (2001-04) and into 10th all alone on the career list. Abney needs three more trifectas to move into ninth ahead of Paula Penttila (2000-03) ... With her 11 steals in the game, Givens moved into 11th on the all-time steals list in Sun Belt history, passing Princess Moore (New Mexico State, 2000-04), Kendra Neal (Louisiana Tech, 1993-96), Brenda Smith (VCU, 1985-87), Sonja Tate (Arkansas State, 1991-93) and Denise Adams (South Alabama, 1984-87). Givens needs eight more thefts to move into 10th ahead of Old Dominion's Tracy Claxton (249, 1982-85). **TIDBITS:** Freshman Chelsia Lymon made her first career start in Saturday's contest. Lymon has averaged 15.4 minutes per game this season heading into the game ... With Lymon starting, sophomore Johnna Abney did not start for just the second time in her career. Abney has started 47 of the 49 games in her career ... The Blue Raiders improved to 8-1 all-time against New Orleans, including 3-1 in the Big Easy. The team has played at three different sites in the four meetings, including at Lakefront Arena, in Westwego at the New Orleans Hornets practice facility and the last two at the Human Performance Center ... Middle Tennessee improved to 8-1 this season away from Murphy Center, including 7-1 in road games. Since the Blue Raiders joined the Sun Belt, only the 2002 (8) and 2004 (9) clubs posted more road victories. Middle Tennessee still has five road tilts remaining this season.

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