Blue Raiders Drop 4OT Game 57-51

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- The Blue Raiders fell to the visiting Ragin' Cajuns of UL-Lafayette 57-51 in four overtimes on a rainy Saturday afternoon. The game is the longest game in SBC history, eclipsing a 2OT game between Idaho and Montana in 2001.

Harris Has Career Day: Sophomore QB Josh Harris, the third MT quarterback to see action against the Ragin' Cajuns, led the Blue Raiders to paydirt with less than a second remaining in the first half. The toss to WR Wardell Alsup was the first passing TD in his career. Harris went on to complete 23-of-36 passes for 284 yards. His four touchdown passes ties him for third all-time in single game scoring tosses. Harris also added a rushing TD in the overtime period.

Alsup Has Big Day: Senior Wardell Alsup turned in a gem of a performance in his final home game. Alsup came into the game having caught only one career TD pass, but the Murfreesboro native hauled in two in the game. Both TD passes came from backup QB Josh Harris. Alsup ended the day with four catches for 34 yards and two touchdowns. His four grabs equals his career high, which he tallied earlier in the year against Missouri.

Wright Sets New Record: Kerry Wright's fourth quarter TD catch put him at the top of the single season TD reception list. Wright's score was his ninth of the year, putting him ahead of Corey Simpson and Jerry Smith for the all-time record. Wright has now scored in seven of the team's 11 games.

Kelly Moves Up List: Brian Kelly booted three field goals today and ended the day in second place on the career FG made list. Kelly now owns 39 career three-pointers and passed Garth Petrelli to take over second place. Kelly also scored 15 points in the game, giving him 267 career points and putting him second all-time in scoring by a kicker at MT. He is now 13 points behind Garth Petrelli for the all-time record. Kelly also moved up to fourth place on the all-time scoring list at MT, passing Kelly Potter with his effort today. Kelly is now five points behind Joe Campbell for third place all-time.

Three Defenders Hit Career Highs: CB Muhammad Rashada, LB Dennis Burke, and SS Justin Rainey each tallied career high tackles in today's game against the Ragin' Cajuns. Rashada turned in a career best 13 tackles against the Ragin' Cajuns, besting his previous high of eight tackles which he recorded last season against SEMO. Burke gathered 11 stops in the game today, topping his previous high of nine, which he had collected in two games earlier in the season. Rainey's 10 tackles bests the nine he had last week against Troy State.

OT ... Again: Middle Tennessee came into the season having played only one overtime game in the I-A era, which, ironically, came at home against UL-Lafayette in 2000. Today's overtime game was the third of the season for the Blue Raiders, giving the team a 1-2 record in overtime this year and 2-2 under Andy McCollum when playing in the extra period. The game, which lasted four overtimes became the longest game in school history, eclipsing the team's three-OT win over Indiana State in the 1984 I-AA playoffs. It was also the longest game in the history of the Sun Belt Conference.

Three at QB: Due to injuries, the Blue Raiders were forced to use three quarterbacks in the game today. Starter Andrico Hines left the game early in the second quarter and was replaced by Clint Marks. Marks left the game with an injury on the same drive, forcing Josh Harris into the game.

Alexander Automotive Family Player of the Game: QB Josh Harris was named the Alexander Automotive Family Player of the Game for his outstanding performance in today's come-from-behind victory. Harris was 23-for-36 passing for 284 yards and four touchdowns in the game.

Quick Hitters: SS Justin Rainey collected his first career sack in the third quarter ... CB Danny Tolbert recovered the first fumble of his career on a third quarter muffed punt ... WR Walt Bell hauled in his first career reception in the third quarter ... Senior CB Chris Johnson picked off his first career pass in the fourth quarter ... K Brian Kelly's 47-yard field goal in the third overtime period equaled his career long ... Today's four overtime game marks the longest game in Sun Belt history ... K Brian Kelly's 14 points against UL-Lafayette gives him a total of 40 points in his career against the Ragin' Cajuns.

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