Holmes Scores Double-Double in Win Over Tennessee Tech

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Junior Patrice Holmes scored a double-double, 25 points and 10 rebounds, to lead Middle Tennessee (1-0) to a 65-52 victory over Tennessee Tech (0-1) Friday in the Murphy Center.

Leading only by five to start the second half, Middle Tennessee went on a 9-4 run to extend their lead to 10, 42-32, with 13:25 to play. The Lady Raiders then relied on the scoring touch of Holmes and the tough play of Tia Stovall to pull out the win.

Stovall was the only other Lady Raider to score in double figures with 11 points and she also had eight rebounds. Freshmen Krystle Horton, Chrissy Givens and junior Ditte Jakobsen were the only newcomers to see action in the game. Horton scored six points and Jakobsen added three in the game.

Middle Tennessee shot 47.2 percent from the field and was only 20 percent from the three-point line. The Lady Raiders shot 68.4 percent from the free throw line, hitting 13-of-17 in the second half after going 0-2 in the first half.

Jenna Baltimore and Casey Bradford paced Tennessee Tech with 13 points each, and Baltimore was 3-of-4 from three-point range. After going to the free-throw line 10 times and hitting five in the first half, the Lady Eagelettes were only sent four times and hit three in the second half.

Middle Tennessee hosts their second home game of the season Monday when Southern Illinois comes into the Murphy Center for a 5:30 p.m. tip-off. Southern Illinois is 0-1 after losing to Southeast Missouri State 73-64 Friday night.

Game Notes

VS. TECH IN THE MURPH: Middle Tennessee improved to 20-10 all-time at Murphy Center against

Tennessee Tech. The Lady Raiders also upped their mark to 20-9 all-time in home openers and 19-10 in season openers.

SMITH OPENS STRONG AGAIN: Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith improved to 5-2 in both season and home openers and upped her mark to 6-3 against Tennessee Tech.

THE HOLMES SHOW: Lady Raider junior Patrice Holmes made her 60th consecutive start in the contest. The Bishopville, S.C., native finished the game with 25 points and 10 rebounds, her 48th career double figure scoring outing and 20th straight. It was also the 31st time in the past 32 games she has scored in double figures, dating to the 2001-02 season. Holmes also recorded her eighth career double figure rebound contest and the sixth career double-double outing. The effort was also her sixth career double-double.

TAKING A BOW: Three Lady Raiders saw their first career action against Tennessee Tech tonight. Krystle Horton started for the team while Ditte Jakobsen and Chrissy Givens came off the bench. The newcomers combined for nine points and eight rebounds in the contest.

GET IT OUT OF HERE: The Lady Raider blocked an impressive seven shots against the Golden Eaglettes tonight, totaling more blocks in tonight's game than any single game last season. Tia Stovall led the block effort with three while Keisha McClinic, Jennifer Justice, Patrice Holmes, and Ditte Jakobsen each tallied one swat.

HITTING THE BOARDS: The Lady Raiders started the season on the right foot in the rebound department, grabbing 37 boards in the game and outrebounding TTU by nine. Four Lady Raiders snared five or more rebounds in the game. Patrice Holmes paced the team on the boards with 10.

TIDBITS: Tech's point total tonight is the fourth-lowest ever allowed on opening night by a Lady Raider squad ... G Patrice Holmes led the team in scoring, rebounding, and assists in the game ... The Lady Raiders are now 32-22 all-time in the month of November and are 2-0 all time on November 21.

MT Head Coach Stephany Smith:

"I am disappointed in the fact that we didn't have enough opportunities until they were in a must foul situation. We didn't have enough opportunities at the free throw line because we are an aggressive defensive team. I thought full court pressure against them would be a good thing, but in the first half we only shot two free throws and they were in the first five seconds of the game. As athletic and aggressive as we are, we were very stagnant against the zone. We had more opportunities in the second half to press in a full court setting because we had more opportunities at the free throw line. We did a better job of attacking the zone in the second half as well."

MT Guard Keisha McClinic:

"In the locker room, we talked about coming out in the second half and picking up our defense. One of our biggest keys is defensive pressure so we can get transition points."

"Since it was the first game, everyone was nervous and excited. Tennessee Tech is one of our rival teams, so we just wanted to make sure we came away with a victory. Going to 1-0 gives us a lot of confidence going in to the game Monday."

MT Guard Patrice Holmes:

"We were not attacking the zone in the first half. So, we wanted to make sure we came out in the second half and started attacking the zone and getting to the free throw line."

"I think we still need to improve more on our defense and boxing out as well. We need to not turn the ball over as much, and we also have to be smart in late game situations."

TTU Head Coach Bill Worrell:

"We had a couple of turnovers right at the end of the first half. In the second half, the score was 34-28. We missed three shots and they had some transition baskets. We also turned it over. If we make those baskets and don't turn it over, we go up. But, I am proud of our effort. I thought we accounted for ourselves well. Middle Tennessee has a very nice team. I really like them. I thought we were right there with them. I don't think they were comfortable until the clock went off."

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