Lady Raiders Escape Xavier with 67-65 Win

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CINCINNATI, Ohio - Patrice Holmes scored 29 points as Middle Tennessee (4-1) picked up a huge win on the road with a 67-65 win over Xavier (2-2) Wednesday in the Cintas Center. The Lady Raiders found themselves in a fight down the stretch as Middle Tennessee watched an 18-point lead at the 12-minute mark erased by Xavier . The Musketeers came back to tie the game with 5:58 left on a Tara Boothe lay-up and then took the lead 55-53 with a Nikki Wells lay-up. "A win like this is important for our team," said head coach Stephany Smith. "Especially since we went through a slump and made poor decisions with the basketball in that stretch." The final five minutes of the game was a shoot out for both teams and the game was tied once again with two minutes to go, 59-59, with a Boothe free throw and then took the lead 60-59 when she hit the second bucket. Holmes gave the lead back to Middle Tennessee, 60-61, with a lay-up off an assist by Tia Stovall. Xavier would never lead again. In the final two minutes, Holmes scored eight points for the Lady Raiders and was 4-of-4 from the charity stripe. Miranda Green had a chance to tie the game in the final second as the buzzer sounded but her shot was short. Xavier's All-American Tara Boothe kept the Musketeers in the game and was a perfect 9-for-9 from the field and was 6-of-8 from the free throw line for 24 points in the game. Guard Miranda Green, who had key buckets for Xavier down the stretch, ended the game with 12 points. Middle Tennessee shot 53.8 percent from the field and was 72.7 percent from the free throw line. Xavier shot 66.7 percent from the field and was 52.9 percent from the free throw line. Holmes was 12-of-18 from the field and had two assists and four steals in the game. Freshman Krystle Horton was the only other Lady Raider to score in double figures with 13 points and also had three assists. This is the first time Xavier has lost back-to-back home games since 1997. Middle Tennessee will take a 10-day break and return to action on December 13. The Lady Raiders will travel to Athens, Georgia to take on No. 11 Georgia, with tip-off set for 7 p.m.

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