Lady Raiders Defeat Chicago State 78-55

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Four Lady Raiders scored in double figures as Middle Tennessee (6-2) defeated Chicago state (5-2) 78-55 Wednesday in the Murphy Center.

Middle Tennessee returned to the friendly confines of the Murphy Center after a five-game road swing. The Lady Raiders are now 3-0 at home.

Senior Patrice Holmes led all scorers with 19 points, as she was one of four players who reached double digits. Keisha McClinic added 14 points. Tia Stovall had 10 and senior Jennifer Justice scored in double digits for the first time this season with 11.

Middle Tennessee trailed 12-10 with 12:06 left in the first half, but the Lady Raiders went on a 24-10 run in the final eight minutes to build a comfortable lead. Down by two the Lady Raiders took the lead for good at the 11:46 minute mark on a jumper by freshman Krystle Horton.

The Lady Raiders shot over 50 percent from the field for the second straight game and the fifth overall with 52.7. Middle Tennessee held Chicago State to a frosty 37.8 from the field.

Middle Tennessee hit six three-pointers in the second half, as the team didn't make a trey in the first half. The Lady Raiders were 6-of-7 from the three-point line in the second half.

The Lady Raiders return to the road on Saturday when they take on Austin Peay. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. Middle Tennessee fans planning to attend the game can receive free admission by bringing a new toy for the Lady Govs toy drive.

Notes

Best Start Under Smith: The Lady Raiders improved to 6-2 on the season, their best start under seventh-year head coach Stephany Smith. Three times in the previous six seasons the squad has started 5-3. This also marks the best start for the Lady Raiders since the 1995-96 team began 17-2.

Three's in the Second: The Lady Raiders went 0-for-8 behind the three-point line in the first half of

the game, but came back to make 6-of-7 from behind the arc in the second 20 minutes. Keisha McClinic and Ciara Gray each made a pair of trifectas in the game.

McClinic All Around: Senior Keisha McClinic had perhaps her best all-around game of the season, collecting 14 points, three rebounds, four assists and four steals. The 14 points was her second highest total of the year, while her assist and steals total tied her season high.

Justice Best: Senior Jennifer Justice notched her best outing of the season, scoring 11 points with five rebounds, both season-highs, in 24 minutes.

Trice at the Top: Junior Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 19 points and eight rebounds, the fourth time she has led the squad in boards this season. Her 19 points was a game-high and led the Lady Raiders in scoring for the seventh time in eight contests.

Tidbits: The Lady Raiders shot over 50 percent in a game for the fifth time this season and the fifth time in the last six outings. They also held Chicago State to just 38 percent from the field, the second-lowest this season for an opponent ... The 44 points in the second half was the highest in the second 20 minutes this season for the Lady Raiders and the second-highest half of scoring this year, behind only the 49 first-half points against Norfolk State.

Quotes

MT Head Coach Stephany Smith: "We had definitely stressed and harped on pressuring the basketball. I thought we did a better job with that, and they were a very athletic team. We are trying to get more aggressive, and we will have to get used to playing a little tighter proximity and not foul. I think our pressure was better today."

"[CSU] started out in a box-and-one and probably played most of the first half that way. We ran our man offense some and both of our zone offenses against it. I thought we executed well. In our zone, we got several open looks on the weak side for wide-open lay-ups. In the man-to-man, once we started reversing the ball, we got some open looks."

MT Guard Patrice Holmes: "Coming in to the game, we wanted to apply more pressure defensively than we did against Tennessee State. We wanted to put them on their heels and force them to turn the ball over."

MT Guard Keisha McClinic: "One of the main things Coach Smith was telling us was that we were always in the right position, we just weren't applying enough ball pressure. Our main focus tonight was have a lot of ball pressure, make teams uncomfortable, and apply pressure to the outside as well as the inside."

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