

Stovall Scores Season-High 19 in Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Sophomore forward Tia Stovall scored a season-high 19 points to help lead Middle Tennessee (8-2) to a 76-54 win over South Carolina State (3-5) Monday in the Murphy Center.

Middle Tennessee departs for the Christmas holiday with an impressive 8-2 record and has now won four games in a row and is also 4-0 at home. It is the first time this season the Lady Raiders have won four straight games and the best start since the 1995-96 season.

Stovall just missed scoring a double-double as she pulled down nine rebounds to go along with her 19 points. The Winchester, TN native was 7-of-12 from the floor and 5-of-8 from the free throw line.



After only leading by 10 at the half, 37-27, Middle Tennessee went on a 13-3 run in the first six minutes of the second half to balloon the lead to 50-30. The Lady Raiders out rebounded the Lady Bulldogs 20-9 in the second half and shot 48.6 percent from the field to build their lead.

For the second straight game Middle Tennessee had four players in double figures. Freshman Krystle Horton had 18 points, Jennifer Justice added a season-high 14 and Keisha McClinic pumped in 10.

Junior guard Patrice Holmes was held scoreless in the first half. She scored eight points in the second half and dished out a season-high nine assists and also had four steals.

Middle Tennessee will take a break for the holidays and return to action on Tuesday December 30 when the team travels to Nashville to take on Lipscomb. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Game Notes:

STOVALL BREAKS OUT: Sophomore Tia Stovall enjoyed her best game of the year as she scored a season-best 19 points to lead the Lady Raiders over South Carolina State. Stovall also added nine boards, three assists, two blocks and two steals. For the year, Stovall has now scored in double figures the last four games in a row.

PLAYER OF THE GAME: Members of the media voted Tia Stovall as the Alexander Automotive Family Player of the Game. Stovall filled the stat sheet with 19 points, nine rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals.

BOARD DOMINATION: After losing the board battle at Austin Peay on Saturday night, the Lady Raiders bounced back by dominating the glass, 45 to 30. MT had seven more offensive caroms than SCS while five different Lady Raiders hauled in four or more rebounds.

MORE THAN POINTS: Patrice Holmes does a lot more than score points for the Lady Raiders and she has been showing that over the past two outings. During that span, the junior is averaging 8.5 assists, 4.0 steals and 8.5 rebounds.

FRESHMAN SENSATION: Krystal Horton, who has scored in double figures seven times in 10 games this year, put together her second-best scoring outing of the season with 18 points on 9-for-12 shooting against SCS. The Murfreesboro, native also added eight rebounds and a career-best four assists. Over the past two games, Horton has connected on 15 of 24 shots from the field (.625).

TIDBITS: The Lady Raiders ran its home record to a perfect 4-0 on the season and have now won seven in a row at the Murphy Center dating back to last year ... The overall four-game winning streak by the Lady Raiders is the longest in the month of December by a Stephany Smith coached team ... Chrissy Givens played in her first game since the FAU tourney ... This marked the second straight game that Tia Stovall scored the Lady Raiders' first point of the game on a free throw ... This marked the first time all year Patrice Holmes has gone scoreless in the first half ... The Lady Raiders have had at least one blocked shot in five straight games ... Chrissy Givens set her career-high in rebounds (4) and steals (3) ... Yamil Cordero had a personal-best three rebounds in the win over SCS ... The Lady Raiders had 25 assists on 34 made field goals (.735) ... The Lady Raiders' 8-2 start after 10 games is their best beginning to a season since 1995-96.

NEXT UP: The Lady Raiders will be off for eight days before traveling up the road to take on Lipscomb next Tuesday. Game time is set for 7 PM.

Quotes:

MT Head Coach Stephany Smith: "Patrice has a big impact no matter where she does or does not show up in the a statiscal category. As you can tell, the three minutes she was not playing in the first half it was a totally different circus act out there. But, it sure was nice to see [Tia Stovall] show up tonight. This was the best game she has had this season. That lets me breath a little easier knowing that she is starting to show glimpses of what she did for us last season."

MT Forward Krystle Horton: "[Patrice Holmes] is always looking for the person that is open. She is constantly always looking, and that is one of the things that I like about her. She never puts her head down and is always looking for whoever is open."

"We put a big emphasis on our rebounding. We knew we had to box out well, that is one of our goals. We just try to box out and get the ball."

MT Forward Tia Stovall: "It is almost Christmas break, and everybody wants to get a win before they leave. For some reason, I just felt more prepared tonight. I was very confident. I went into the game knowing I was going to produce. When you have that kind of confidence, there is no telling what you can do."

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