Lady Raiders Fall in Second Round of NCAA Tourney to Notre Dame

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- **Audio: Lady Raiders' Postgame Comments**
- **Audio:** Notre Dame's Muffet McGraw

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - No. 13 seeded Middle Tennessee (24-8) fell to No. 5 seed Notre Dame (21-10) 59-46 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Tuesday in the Joyce Center.

The Lady Raiders came out strong in the first half, and led by as much as five points twice, but the team sputtered near the end of the first half. Middle Tennessee didn't score for a total of 11 minutes spanning the final minute of the first half and the first ten minutes of the second half.

Jacqueline Batteast sparked Notre Dame in the second half as she scored the Irish's first six points in the second half. She ended the game with 27 points, and scored 14 of those points in the second half.

The Lady Raider drought in the second half was Notre Dame's gain. As a three-point lead to start the second half swelled to a 12-point lead in the first five minutes.

After connecting on 12 field goals in the first half, Middle Tennessee's output was almost half that in the second half, as the team only hit eight field goals. Freshman Krystle Horton hit four of the field goals on the way to a team-leading 18 points. Horton extended her consecutive double figure-scoring streak to 12.

Overall, Middle Tennessee shot just 32.3 percent from the field as opposed to Notre Dame's scorching 55.3 percent. Notre Dame's hot shooting helped them fight through 23 turnovers in the game and a Middle Tennessee's game-high 15 steals.

The Lady Raiders end the season as only the third team in school history to reach the second round of the NCAA Tournament. It was Head Coach Stephany Smith's first trip to the second round.

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