

August 30, 2001

## MT-Vandy Postgame Notebook

MT Media Relations

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE POSTGAME NOTEBOOK BLUE RAIDERS VS VANDERBILT COMMODORES AUGUST 30, 2001

**LARGEST OPENING CROWD FOR MT:** Tonight's crowd of 39,885 marks the largest the Blue Raiders have played in front of for a season opener in their history. The previous high was 38,903 against Hawaii in Honolulu in 1993.

**OVER 100 - AGAIN:** Junior **Dwone Hicks** recorded his 10th 100-yard rushing game when he collected 203 against Vanderbilt tonight. The Doak Walker Award candidate registered eight 100-yard games in 2000 and one in 1999. This mark's the second straight 100-yard game against an SEC opponent for Hicks (116 vs Mississippi State in 2000). The 200-yard performance is the second in his career and is only one shy of the all-time mark of three set by Joe Campbell.

**ROLLING UP THE YARDS:** The Middle Tennessee offense turned in the second-highest total yardage performance of all-time against Vanderbilt with 608. The Blue Raiders eclipsed the previous second-place outing of 602 against Wofford in 1999. The all-time mark is 660 yards against UT Martin in 1990.

**NEW RECORD:** WR **Kendall Newson** ran his consecutive games with at least one catch to 33 tonight. That streak is now the longest in school history breaking the previous mark of 32 set by Demetric Mostiller.

**FIRST DOWN, BLUE RAIDERS:** Middle Tennessee racked up 37 first downs against the Commodores to set a new team mark. The previous mark of 34 was set against Morehead State in 1984.

**AIR RAID:** Blue Raider signal-caller **Wes Counts** threw for 308 yards against Vanderbilt marking the fifth time in his career that he has eclipsed the 300-yard mark. Counts last threw for 300 yards against next week's opponent Troy State in 1999.

**NEWSON GETS 100:** For the 11th time in his career, **Kendall Newson** collected 100 yards receiving. Newson, Middle Tennessee's most prolific pass catcher, caught nine balls for 113 yards. Newson is the school's all-time leader in 100-yard games with his tally.

**HICKS MOVES UP TD CHART:** With four touchdowns tonight, **Dwone Hicks** ran his career total to 26. That figure ranks as a tie with Dwight Stone for sixth on the all-time list at Middle Tennessee. The school's career leader is Joe Campbell who had 45 from 1988-91.

**BALANCED ATTACK:** Even though many people perceive Middle Tennessee's offense to be pass heavy, the Blue Raiders nearly balanced their passing and rushing attack. The Blue Raiders picked up 300 yards on the ground and 308 yards in the air for their 608-yard total.

**TIDBITS:** WR **Nick Payne**'s third quarter reception was his first catch since the 1999 season - First time starters tonight for Middle Tennessee were: C **Glen Elarbee**, DB **Wardell Alsup**, LB **Brandon Lynch**, LB **Michael Woods**, LB **Sheldon Durham**, DT **Thomas Johnson**, and DE **Samuel Smith** - Middle Tennessee's 27 pass completions ranks fifth all-time - Middle Tennessee dominated the game's time of possession with a

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39:55 mark to Vandy's 20:05 - The Blue Raiders are now 6-0 all-time when **Dwone Hicks** has 18 or more rush attempts.

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