

Horton's Double-Double Leads Lady Raiders to Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Krystle Horton recorded a double-double, 19 points and 13 rebounds, in Middle Tennessee's 80-64 exhibition victory over Georgia College and State University Saturday in the Murphy Center.

Horton was the spark underneath for a Lady Raider team that struggled at times offensively and defensively. Overall, she was 9-of-11 from the field and had 10 big defensive rebounds.

Middle Tennessee looked like it might control the game easily as the Lady Raiders scored the first six points of the game. Georgia College's Lady Bobcats came back and tied it at 14 with 13:36 to go off a three-point basket by Ashley Williams.



The Lady Bobcats built a nine point lead, 27-18 thanks to a 13-4 run. Middle Tennessee stormed back with a bucket by Horton and back-to-back three-point shots by freshman Latoya Barclay to pull within one 28-29. Tia Stovall hit the second of two free throws to tie the game for the Lady Raiders and after two lead changes the Lady Raiders got the upper hand again, 35-33, from a Horton lay-up. Middle Tennessee never trailed again.

Middle Tennessee built a 16-point lead, 60-44, in the second half with 11:10 to go, but GCSU trimmed that lead to nine with a 7-0 run. The Lady Raiders broke their scoring drought at the 7:30 mark with a lay-up by Stovall.

The Lady Raiders were plagued by turnovers, with 15 in the first half alone. Middle Tennessee finished the game with 29 and forced 21 Georgia College and State University turnovers. Middle Tennessee ended the game shooting 55.9 percent from the field and 4-of-12 from the three-point

line for 33.3 percent.

Middle Tennessee had three other players, besides Horton, to score in double figures. Stovall ended the game with 16 points, Givens had 15 and Barclay notched 10. Senior Patrice Holmes was limited to just four points and committed 11 turnovers.

On Friday November 12 it all begins for real as Middle Tennessee hosts South Florida in the first round of the Preseason WNIT. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m.

QUOTES:

Head Coach Stephany Smith: "We have learned that we have a lot to accomplish. I do think that we were better this afternoon than we were on Monday. I don't think we fully understand the greater sense of urgency yet to get better every game on every play. I think we got better today. But, 29 turnovers will get you beat almost every night."

"We didn't do a very good job of taking care of the basketball. They had a zone press on us. In the half court they pressured us man to man. They had us on our heels and made us very tentative. It was the same things we had problems with on Monday against the press. We played very passive. We didn't get into a structured offense even if we did break the press."

Forward Krystle Horton: "In the first half, we had to get rid of our jitters. We are a great rebounding team. One of our goals is to out rebound our opponent."

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