

Lady Raider Come Back Bid Falls Short

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's last-chance come back bid fell short, as the Lady Raiders (4-4) lost to in-state rival Tennessee Tech (5-3) 52-50 Thursday in the Eblen Center.

After calling a timeout with 25 seconds remaining, Tennessee Tech attempted to run an inbounds play under the Lady Raider basket, after a missed Middle Tennessee field goal. Senior guard Patrice Holmes picked off the pass and went for a bucket, but the shot missed its mark. The Lady Raiders were still alive, however, as Holmes snagged her own rebound.

Holmes forced up a second shot as she was tumbling to the floor, but the attempt was off as well. Fellow senior Ditte Jakobsen grabbed the rebound and forced up a shot of her own, but it didn't fall either. Tennessee Tech pulled down the rebound to seal the win.



Middle Tennessee led for most of the second half, until Tennessee Tech took the lead off a three-pointer by Cortney McFarlin. After two ties, the Lady Eagelettes took the lead for good when Tyneshia Alexander drained two free throws with 2:52 remaining. Alexander tacked on a lay-up to extend the Tech lead to four, but junior Tia Stovall pulled the game within two for the Lady Raiders with a lay-up with 45 seconds remaining.

Stovall proved to be Middle Tennessee's go-to player in the second half, as she scored all of the Lady Raider's points in the last 10 minutes of the game. After scoring just five points in the first half, and fighting off foul trouble, Stovall scored 14 straight points to end the contest with a game-leading

19 points.

The tone was set for the rest of the game in the waning seconds of the first half. Middle Tennessee had the chance for a last second shot to close out the half, but Ciara Gray's shot fell wide and Tennessee Tech grabbed the rebound. The Lady Eaglettes Alexander forced up a half-court shot as the buzzer sounded and the ball hit the rim and rolled in. It proved to be the momentum Tech needed to come out in the second half and pick up the win over the Lady Raiders.

Sophomore Krystle Horton was the only other Lady Raider in doubles figures with 11 points. Holmes could only manage six points in the contest, which breaks her streak of six consecutive games in which she scored in double figures.

The Lady Raiders will not have a game for the next eight days, before beginning an seven-game home stand. Middle Tennessee hosts South Carolina at 7 p.m. December 18 in the Murphy Center.

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