

Lady Raiders Drop Heartbreaker 58-56

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's basketball (7-5) lost a heartbreaker 58-56 to South Dakota State (11-4) Monday at the Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders had a chance to tie the game in the final three seconds, but couldn't convert on two chances under the basket. Senior guard Patrice Holmes missed a jumper with three seconds to go, but the Lady Raiders were still alive when sophomore Chrissy Givens snagged the rebound. Givens launched a jumper in the final second of the game, but it was off the mark and South Dakota State's Brooke Dickmeyer sealed the Lady Raider's fate with the rebound as the buzzer sounded.



Middle Tennessee tied the game off a Krystle Horton lay-up with 1:46 remaining in the game. Horton came down and stole the ball from South Dakota State's Sarita DeBoer to give the Lady Raiders a chance to take the lead. A missed three-pointer by Holmes and a Megan Vogel rebound gave the ball back to the Jackrabbits. South Dakota State had three chances at a bucket and the third time was the charm as DeBoer sank a jumper to give South Dakota State the lead and eventual win.

Middle Tennessee's inability to connect on free throws was a detriment to the Lady Raiders as the team was 8-of-17 from the charity stripe for 47.1 percent. The team also had 23 turnovers in the game and was pounded on the board and only able to grab 28 to South Dakota State's 43.

Tia Stovall led the Lady Raiders with 19 points and eight rebounds. Holmes added 14 points and just missed a double-double with nine rebounds. Horton tacked on 11 points and had four steals.

Middle Tennessee returns to action on Thursday when the Lady Raiders host Xavier. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

NOTES:

STOVALL FACTOR: Junior Tia Stovall continues to shine as she led the Lady Raiders with 19 points against South Dakota State. It was the fifth consecutive game the Estill Springs, Tenn. native has scored in double figures.

INSIDE THE LINES: Middle Tennessee had a pair of streaks snapped against South Dakota State as the team's three-game winning streak and four-game home winning streak were each erased with the loss ... The Lady Raiders are now 1-3 when trailing at the half ... Ditte Jakobsen's four assists are a career-high ... Krystle Horton tied her career-high with four assists ... Middle Tennessee recorded its second lowest rebounding output of the season with 28 against South Dakota State.

QUOTES:

HEAD COACH STEPHANY SMITH: "I knew that South Dakota State was a very strong rebounding team because statistically they have been. I didn't expect it to be this strong. They were absolutely phenomenal on the boards and play so hard non-stop all over the floor, not just on the boards."

"Shooting 47 percent is not going to win you many basketball games. All we had to do was make three more, and it was a little bit of everybody missing those free throws. Take care of the ball a little bit better. Krystle Horton had eight turnovers and she just has to get better taking care of the basketball."

"Obviously I am disappointed in the loss, because we want to win every game we play. Things that were glaringly obvious to me were we didn't keep them off the offensive boards, didn't get offensive boards ourselves, didn't make free throws and didn't take care of the basketball."

JUNIOR FORWARD TIA STOVALL: "South Dakota wasn't really that much taller or bigger than us but they were really strong and we knew they were going to be like that. A positive from tonight is that we have learned we have to get better on taking care of the basketball and boxing out. I really don't think there was anything negative about the game other than the loss because you can learn from every mistake you make."

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