Pair of double-doubles lift Raiders past Owls

Brown tallies first of her career, Queen adds her fourth

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - For the first time in nearly two years Middle Tennessee had two players record a double-double and the Lady Raider women's basketball team used a hot-shooting first half to pull out a 90-64 victory over visiting Florida Atlantic Wednesday evening inside the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Brandi Brown tallied her first career double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Emily Queen added her second of the campaign and fourth of her career with a career-best tying 20 points and 10 boards. The tandem is the first set of Blue Raider teammates with a double-double in the same game since Krystle Horton (14 pts., 10 reb.) and Chrissy Givens (31 pts., 13 reb.) accomplished the feat at Troy Feb. 22, 2007.

Brown reached double-figure rebounds for the first time in her career when she hauled in a carom on the defensive glass with 5:47 left. Queen's 10th board came on the offensive end when she grabbed a Jackie Pickel miss at 11:04 before being fouled and making both foul shots.

Middle Tennessee (12-4, 4-0 Sun Belt) torched the nets during the opening 20 minutes, tallying a season high for points in the first half with 57. The 57 points, which were surpassed by a Dana Garrett baseline jumper with 2:58 to go in the session, eclipsed the previous tally of 47. The sum is one shy of reaching the program's all-time top-five chart for points scored during the opening frame.

The Blue Raiders built a 28-point, 57-29, halftime advantage to tie their season-best margin at the

intermission. MT also held a 28-point edge, 42-14, against Lafayette in the opener Nov. 15.

In addition, the Lady Raiders outrebounded the Owls, 47-26, for their largest rebounding effort of the campaign. The plus-21 rebounding margin is also a season best.

MT accomplished all this despite not having the services of junior point guard Chelsia Lymon, who missed her first game of the season and only the ninth of her career with an injury. Lymon last missed a game when she was injured in the regular season as a freshman with her last missed contest coming during NCAA Tournament Second Round action versus Marist March 19, 2007. She had played in 49 consecutive tilts since then.

Sophomore Anne Marie Lanning ran the point position much of the game and finished with eight points, five rebounds and five assists to go along with zero turnovers in 36 minutes. Her five hand-outs are one shy of her career best, set earlier this year at LSU Nov. 30.

After Florida Atlantic (4-10, 1-3 Sun Belt) scored the game's first bucket on an Andrea Taylor jumper, Middle Tennessee responded with the next 10 points. The Blue Raiders built a 22-point lead following a Lanning 3-pointer at 9:40, racing out to a 29-7 edge. The first half advantage eventually swelled to as high a 28 points, the last coming on an Alysha Clark layup with 14 seconds showing on the clock.

The Owls came out of the locker room and played MT to a more even second half. FAU outscored the home team by two, 35-33, during the final period as Breana Turner netted 18 of her team-high 26 points after the intermission. She was joined in double figures by Taylor, who added 10 points to the Owls' total.

Clark finished with a game-best 28 points on 11-of-17 field goals, including connecting on her lone attempt from behind the 3-point arc. Clark and Queen give MT a pair of teammates recording at least 20 points in a game this season for the fourth time.

Pickel also joined the double-figure scoring contingent with 11 points, including three triples to match Queen for the most from long range.

Middle Tennessee will remain at home for its next game, a Noon Sunday tip against Florida International in a game broadcast on Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast (CSS) as part of the SBC-TV package. Lyn Rollins will be on the play-by-play with Debbie Leonard handling color commentary.

Middle Tennessee vs. Florida Atlantic quotes

Coach Rick Insell

On the start of the game
"I thought Anne Marie Lanning did a great job of recognizing what they were going to and getting us into our offense. I think that was the key early on. Every possession they were doing something different and she did a great job of getting us into what we needed to be in. Early on we missed some shots that we usually make, but then we hit one or two and then we got on a roll."

On team being 4-0 in conference
"I felt like we would be 4-0. I knew that North Texas and South Alabama would be tough. FAU had a

couple of kids that didn't make the trip plus they played last night at Troy. So that team we played tonight is not the team we'll see in Boca Raton. I'm happy to be 4-0. I think we get along good and share the basketball well. We had 21 assists tonight so that's pretty good."

On players other than Alysha Clark
"They're all good players. But when you have someone as dominating as Alysha Clark who post you up and also come out and shoot the three, you have to give help. I think she's doing a good job of drawing help and passing to the open person and I think that's where a lot of those 21 assists came from tonight. We're sharing the ball well and also I'm happy with the turnovers tonight. We only had 11. That's not our low for the season but it's where I think we need to be."

On Clark's 28 points
"Teams just don't pay a lot of attention to her and then boom she's got 28 points. I know a couple of their players got upset because they thought they had good position on her and all of a sudden she had an easy layup. She has great body control and can keep you from the ball."

On team's defense
"We didn't have a good night defensively in the second half. We wanted to back the press up because we were up, so we worked on some other things but we did a very poor job on the center cut. In that situation we started looking at the scoreboard and got complacent and we can't do that."

Anne Marie Lanning

On running the point
"I was more worried about taking care of the ball and not having turnovers instead of being the shooter and looking more to score."

On running the point with Queen and Clark to play with
"I haven't played the point much before tonight and now I know what Chelsia Lymon goes through every night. It helps a lot because I know when I pass it they're going to catch it and go score."

On team chemistry
"I can tell a big difference from last year just because I feel like we all gel really well with each other. I feel like that's probably best. Amber Holt was great for us last year but I feel our chemistry is better this year."

Emily Queen

On FAU's early defensive switches
"When they're in a zone you have to look more for your shot because they're clogging up the middle. I like it when they play man because the center is a lot more open and you can take it off the dribble. You just have to read the defense and decide how you're going to attack them."

On the team's defensive intensity
"Our practices are so focused and intense. I think a lot of times us staying in our press gives us that force the whole game to create off they're turnovers. We'll hardly ever back out of our press and play a slower paced game. The up tempo game is the one we like and I think we strive off it."

On getting a double-double

"It felt good. I've been waiting to have one. I know I'm capable of it. I just have to come out and play like I can."

Florida Atlantic
Head Coach Chancellor Dugan

On being out-rebounded 47-to-26 in the game
"That was the biggest statthe boards."

On playing back-to-back nights
"You saw it tonight. It was definitely tough. We got in about 3:30 or 4 a.m. this morning. It was tough. You can't come in and compete against Middle Tennessee, not having a scout and not having at least a day to prepare. It's just tough. They're too good of a team to play on four hours rest."

Newspaper Box Score Florida Atlantic vs Middle Tennessee 01/07/09 7 p.m. at Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Murphy Center) At Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Murphy Center) MIDDLE TENNESSEE 90, FLORIDA ATLANTIC 64 FLORIDA ATLANTIC (4-10,1-3 SBC) Turner, Breana 11-18 4-6 26; Taylor, Andrea 4-9 0-0 10; Bowe, Brittany 2-7 4-6 8; Stubbs, Carla 3-7 0-0 7; Knurick, Jessica 3-8 1-2 7; Stamps, Teri 1-5 2-2 4; Givens, Jaimie 0-2 2-2 2; Beauzil, Susan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-56 13-18 64. MIDDLE TENNESSEE (12-4, 4-0 SBC) Clark, Alysha 11-17 5-5 28; Queen, Emily 7-12 3-4 20; Brown, Brandi 5-13 1-1 13; Pickel, Jackie 4-11 0-0 11; Lanning, Anne Marie 3-10 0-0 8; Garrett, Dana 3-4 0-0 6; Stewart, Tina 1-2 2-2 4; McFadden, Molly 0-1 0-0 0; Davis, Shytoria 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 34-71 11-12 90. Florida Atlantic..... 29 35 - 64 Middle Tennessee..... 57 33 - 90 3-point goals--Florida Atlantic 3-11 (Taylor, Andrea 2-5; Stubbs, Carla 1-4; Stamps, Teri 0-1; Givens, Jaimie 0-1), Middle Tennessee 11-32 (Pickel, Jackie 3-9; Queen, Emily 3-6; Lanning, Anne Marie 2-8; Brown, Brandi 2-7; Clark, Alysha 1-1; Stewart, Tina 0-1). Fouled out--Florida Atlantic-None, Middle Tennessee-None. Rebounds--Florida Atlantic 26 (Knurick, Jessica 6), Middle Tennessee 47 (Brown, Brandi 10; Queen, Emily 10). Assists--Florida Atlantic 10 (Stubbs, Carla 4), Middle Tennessee 21 (Brown, Brandi 5; Lanning, Anne Marie 5). Total fouls--Florida Atlantic 14, Middle Tennessee 14. Technical fouls--Florida Atlantic-None, Middle Tennessee-None. A-2877

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