Lady Raiders Fall in OT, 71-67

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Middle Tennessee led most of the game and forced overtime in the final minute of regulation, but it was an old nemesis in overtime who was the difference in a 71-67 Western Kentucky victory here Thursday night.

Leslie Logsdon scored 10 of her 21 points in the extra period, including two free throws with 9.1 seconds remaining to seal the win for the home team. The Lady Raiders had a chance to tie in the final 30 seconds, but a 15-footer from senior Patrice Holmes was long.

The game went back-and-forth from the opening tip, with no team holding a lead of more than seven points in the contest. Middle Tennessee took a 29-28 halftime lead after trailing for much of the first 20 minutes. Holmes scored nine points to lead the attack, with Chrissy Givens adding eight. A Ciara Gray three-pointer with 1:45 to go in the half gave the Lady Raiders the lead.

Middle Tennessee scored six quick points in the first three minutes of the second half, four from Holmes and two by Givens on a steal and layup for a 35-30 edge. The Lady 'Toppers tied the contest at 45 with more than 10 minutes to go, but Middle Tennessee never lost the lead, thanks to a free throw from Gray and one from Givens.

WKU finally took the lead with just over four minutes to play, 53-51, on a layup from Crystal Kelly.

The two teams traded baskets over the next two-plus minutes until the Lady Raiders were finally

able to come up with a defensive stop. After a timeout, Tia Stovall fed Holmes on a backdoor cut that the senior caught in the air and banked off the glass, all in one motion, tying the score at 59.

A turnover by WKU gave Middle Tennessee the ball back with 40 seconds to play, but Holmes was unable to convert in traffic in the lane. Leslie Logsdon's three-pointer was no good, sending the game to overtime.

The Lady Raiders jumped out with six points in OT, but Logsdon hit a pair of three's to tie the score and a layup for the lead. A Holmes bucket made it a two-point game, but her 15-footer with 10 seconds left was long.

Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 19 points and five steals, becoming the all-time thefts leader in the process at Middle Tennessee. Givens tied her season-high with 17 and added seven rebounds, while Tia Stovall had 12 points and four assists and Krystle Horton posted eight points and seven boards.

Logsdon netted a game-high 21 points to lead WKU, including 10 in overtime, while Kelly had 18, Krystal Gardner added 16 and Tiffany Porter-Talbert had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Raiders play again Monday at Florida International before returning home next Thursday to face Denver at Murphy Center.

GAME NOTES

Senior Patrice Holmes recorded five steals in the contest, moving past Kim Webb (294, 1984-87) and into first place on the all-time list with 297. Holmes also posted five rebounds in the game, giving her 689 career caroms, moving her past Jamie Thomatis and Kay Williams and into eighth place behind Webb (692) ... Senior Ciara Gray played a career-high 35 minutes in the contest, besting her previous mark of 31 set against WKU on February 5 of last year. Gray also tied her career-high with four assists ... Junior Tia Stovall tied her season-high with four assists, playing a season-high 40 minutes ... Sophomore Chrissy Givens tied her season-high with 17 points in the contest and tied her career-high by making seven field goals. Givens also played a career-high 40 minutes in the contest ... Patrice Holmes tied her season-high for field goals made with nine and attempted a season-high 21 shots in the game. She also played a season-high 44 minutes, coming out of the contest for exactly 37 seconds midway through the second half ... The overtime game was the first for the Lady Raiders since dropping a 70-68 decision to the Lady 'Toppers in Murfreesboro last season on February 5 ... The Lady Raiders dropped to 4-13 all-time in Bowling Green and have won just once at E.A. Diddle Arena in the regular season since joining the Sun Belt (85.83, February 1, 2001).

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