Lady Raiders Sweep Sun Belt West with Win over North Texas

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DENTON, Texas - Middle Tennessee (16-7, 6-2 Sun Belt) swept the Sun Belt West for the second consecutive year with a 64-49 victory over North Texas (11-12, 6-5 Sun Belt) Saturday in the Super Pit.

Lady Raider sophomore Chrissy Givens continues to shine, as she led the team in points and rebounds for the second straight game. Givens now has back-to-back double-doubles as she recorded 15 points and 11 rebounds against North Texas.

Middle Tennessee found itself down to the Mean Green early in the first half, 6-3, but a 4-0 run gave the Lady Raiders a 7-6 lead with 15:03 to play. Though North Texas would come back and tie the game at 13, the Lady Raiders never trailed to the Mean Green throughout the remainder of the game.

Thanks to a 10-3 run in the final 3:17 of the first half, Middle Tennessee built an eight- point lead, 30-22, going into the locker room. In the final three plus minutes of the first half and the first five minutes, of the second, the Lady Raiders went on an 18-8 run that all but iced any North Texas attempt to get back into the game.

Middle Tennessee suffered through turnovers early in the game, giving up the ball 11 times in the first half. North Texas tossed the ball away 17 times in the first half. The Lady Raiders ended the game with 19 turnovers.

Neither team had much success in the first half under the bucket, as both Middle Tennessee and North Texas clogged up the lanes to force the outside shot. The Lady Raiders scored 26 points in the paint in the first half thanks to offensive rebounds and put-backs. The Lady Raiders didn't connect on a three-point shot in the first half, but drained two in the second half.

The Mean Green came within seven points of the lead midway through the second half, 39-32, after

scoring five unanswered points. The Lady Raiders responded with six straight points to remain in control of the game. North Texas was hurt by its 37 percent shooting and 27 turnovers in the game.

The Lady Raiders were boosted by the guard play of senior Ciara Gray, who scored a season-high 11 points in the contest. It was the first time the LaVergne, Tenn. native has posted double-figures since returning to the squad in December of 2004.

Middle Tennessee also got a double figure scoring performance from junior forward Tia Stovall who added 12 points. Sophomore Krystle Horton rounded out the double figure scoring for the Lady Raiders with 10 points.

Middle Tennessee continues its road swing as the squad travels to Arkansas-Little Rock on Thursday February 17. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. in Little Rock, Ark.

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