Clark leads charge in road win at ULM Wednesday

All-American finishes with game-high 38 points

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MONROE, La. - Reigning Sun Belt Player of the Week and All-American Alysha Clark tallied a game-high 38 points, while Brandi Brown grabbed a season-best eight rebounds, as Middle Tennessee garnered a 74-55 road win Wednesday at ULM inside Fant-Ewing Coliseum in Monroe, La.

Middle Tennessee (12-5, 7-1 Sun Belt) seized control early, doubling up the Warhawks, 20-10, following an old-fashioned three-point play from Clark at 12:28. Chelsia Lymon hit a pair of treys in the early-game spurt, including the Blue Raiders' first basket nearly two minutes into the contest.

However, ULM bounced back with a 7-0 run, including a 3-pointer by Elizabeth Torres, to close within three. Brown hit a top-of-the-key triple to halt the streak and keep the Blue Raiders ahead, 23-17, with 10:06 left.

Four consecutive free throws from Marion Zollicoffer evened the score, but Clark hit a layup at 7:56 putting MT back on top by a deuce. Her field goal ignited an 11-2 run over the next four minutes, which included four more baskets from the All-American and a 3-pointer by Jackie Pickel, to help stretch the advantage to 34-25 at the under-four minute timeout.

A triple from Anne Marie Lanning and layup by Lymon continued the momentum over the next

minute for a 39-25 edge before Larrie Williams ended the spurt with a jumper at 2:29. Sannisha Williams added the final field goal of the half for ULM (7-12, 1-8 Sun Belt) exactly a minute later. Pickel hit a jumper with seven seconds left in the frame to decide the halftime margin in Middle Tennessee's favor, 41-29.

Pickel hit a pair of 3-pointers, from opposite corners, to assist the Blue Raiders in tallying eight of the second half's first 10 points to grow the margin to 18, 49-31, with just over four minutes passed in the period.

The 18-point lead was sustained for the next four minutes before the Warhawks embarked on a 12-3, including four points by Torres, to pull within a dozen, 59-47, with 6:38 to play.

Clark scored 12 of the team's final 15 points, while hitting 9-of-12 from the foul line in the second stanza, for her game-high scoring honors and finish two shy of her total against ULM a year ago. Pickel added 13 points, while Brown chipped in 10 to give Middle Tennessee three starters in double figures.

Sannisha Williams led the Warhawks with 12 points and nine rebounds, while Torres contributed 11 and a game-best seven assists.

The Blue Raiders will return to action at 2 p.m. Sunday when they travel to Bowling Green, Ky., to face rival Western Kentucky in an East Division matchup. The game will be broadcast live on the Sun Belt Network, carried locally by Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast (CSS) with Lyn Rollins handling the play-by-play and Debbie Leonard as the color analyst.

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