

# Givens Has Career Night to Lead Blue Raiders to 80-58 Win

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## **MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -**

Middle Tennessee junior Chrissy Givens poured in a career-high 23 points to help lead the women's basketball team to a 80-58 win over Georgia Southern Friday in the Murphy Center at the Middle Tennessee Classic. The Blue Raiders improve to 2-1 on the season and Georgia Southern falls to 0-2.

Givens, whose previous high was 18, had a stellar night on the court as she was 7-of-14 from the field and 2-of-4 from the three point line. The Monroe, Louisiana native also led the team with nine rebounds.

Early in the game, Middle Tennessee traded baskets with the Eagles before the Blue Raiders started to pull away. The Blue Raiders built their first double digit lead of the night when Givens swiped one of her five steals that lead to a jumper by junior forward Krystle Horton.



In the final five minutes of the half, Middle Tennessee went on a 14-6 run to expand its lead to 39-21 at the half. The 18 point lead was the most for the Blue Raiders this season.

Middle Tennessee came out in the second half and built a 20 point lead in the first four minutes. Georgia Southern trimmed the lead down to 16 with 14:56 left in the game but never got any closer.

Overall, the Blue Raiders shot a season-high 45.8 percent from the field and held the Eagles to 37.9.

Middle Tennessee lost the battle of the boards as the Eagles pulled down 48 rebounds to the Blue Raiders 30. In the theft department, however, Middle Tennessee dominated as the squad had 15 swipes to Georgia Southern's six.

Including Givens, Middle Tennessee had four players record double figures points in the game, which was the most this season. Sophomore Monique Martin and freshman LaCondra Mason had career-high point totals with 13 and 11 respectively. Horton added 12 for her third consecutive double digit scoring performance.

Middle Tennessee closes out the Middle Tennessee Classic when the squad faces former Ohio Valley Conference foe Eastern Kentucky at 5 p.m. In earlier action, Louisville will do battle with Georgia Southern at 3 p.m.

#### **NOTES:**

**GIVENS CAREER PERFORMANCE AGAIN:** Middle Tennessee junior guard Chrissy Givens put in yet another career performance. The Monroe, Louisiana native notched a career-high 23 points tonight, besting her previous total of 18. Givens also had a career-high in free throws made with seven and a career-high two three pointers.

**MASON MAKES HER MARK:** Freshman LaCondra Mason had a career-high 11 points against Georgia Southern. The guard from Chattanooga, Tennessee also hit a career-high three three pointers.

**TIDBITS:** Monique Martins' 13 points against Georgia Southern is a career-high ... The 39 points Middle Tennessee scored at the half is the most first half point total this season ... As a team, the Blue Raiders hit nine three pointers, the most this season ... The 2-1 start by Middle Tennessee is the 12th time in school history the Blue Raiders have began the season with this record ... The 80 points Middle Tennessee scored tonight is the first time Middle Tennessee has scored 80 or more points since the Blue Raiders recorded 85 against Florida Atlantic on November 19, 2004.

#### **QUOTES:**

**HEAD COACH RICK INSELL:** On Rebounds: They just killed us on the boards. We didn't take care of business there.

**On Turnovers:** They had 23 turnovers to our 15. I'm satisfied with that ratio; I think if we can trim that margin down a little bit, we will be in good shape.

**On Team Effort:** I'm proud of the effort and the kids coming out there and playing hard.

**About Chrissy Givens' career night:** She's so aggressive and she plays so hard. Right now, she's the catalyst on our team. The rest of the kids are feeding off her enthusiasm and her hard play right now.

#### **JUNIOR GUARD CHRISSY GIVENS:**

**About her career night:** I didn't shoot very well the last game. I kept shooting because he (Coach Insell) would get mad if I stopped. As far as confidence goes, I came out and ran the offense and I got the shots.

**Taking more shots:** It's a lot easier and comforting to not worry about your shots when your teammates encourage you. It allows you to focus on other parts of the game.

**About her defensive play:** That's my favorite thing to play. If that's what I got to do to get us pumped then that's what I will do.

**Her confidence in shooting:** I'm getting a lot of confidence, even though I am missing some shots. I'm told to keep shooting so I can get comfortable shooting the three.

**On Middle Tennessee being out rebounded by Georgia Southern:** We take pride in our rebounding. I can't remember the last time we let the opposite team out rebound us. We won by a lot, but we need to make better rebounds especially against tougher teams like Penn State or Georgia.

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