

# Middle Tennessee Falls to Virginia 79-63

January 2, 2006 · MT Media Relations

## **CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -**

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team (7-6) dropped its final non-conference game of the season with a 79-63 setback to Virginia (10-1) Monday at University Hall. It is the first time this season the Blue Raiders have had back-to-back losses.

Virginia took a 35-32 lead in the first five minutes of the second half, added a five point swing, and it was the recipe for success for the Cavaliers over Middle Tennessee. The Blue Raiders fought to stay in the game but the team couldn't overcome 23 turnovers.

Down by five points in the waning seconds of the first half, Middle Tennessee got a big boost heading into the locker room. After pulling down a huge rebound with 2.8 seconds left in the half, the Blue Raiders pushed the ball down the court and LaCondra Mason hit a bucket from the right side at the buzzer. Middle Tennessee trailed 32-30 at the half.

Mason led Middle Tennessee with a career-high 15 points in the game, nine of those coming in the first half. All 10 players saw action in the game against the Cavaliers and every player got in the scoring column.

"We put a lot of our focus on [Chrissy] Givens and that left LaCondra Mason free," said Virginia Head Coach Debbie Ryan. "Mason had a good game and she is really a great player with a bright future."

Middle Tennessee shot 48 percent from the field, hitting 24-of-50, and went 4-of-13 from the three-point line.

Middle Tennessee returns to action on Sunday January 8 when the Blue Raiders host Western Kentucky in the first Sun Belt Conference game of the season. Tip-off is set for 2 p.m.

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*Printed on August 1, 2014*

*Original URL: <http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/4699>*