Blue Raiders Escape South Alabama With 59-58 Win

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MOBILE, Ala. - Middle Tennessee women's basketball (10-7, 3-1 SBC) picked up its second Sun Belt road win of the season with a 59-58 win over South Alabama (8-8, 2-2 SBC) Thursday in the Mitchell Center.

The last 30-seconds of the game was full of heart-stopping action. With Middle Tennessee trailing by one, 57-58, Chrissy Givens hit a driving lay-up to give the Blue Raiders the one-point lead. South Alabama had numerous chances down under the basket but couldn't convert a bucket. The Lady Jaguars had one last shot with five seconds remaining, but JoAnna Williams threw the ball out of bounds and Middle Tennessee got the ball back. Givens was quickly fouled and missed the front-end of a one-and-one with 1.3 seconds remaining, and the Lady Jaguars last ditch attempt at mid-court shot missed its mark.

Middle Tennessee led by as much as six in the second half but watched its lead quickly dwindle. South Alabama took its first lead of the second half when Whitney Woodard hit one of two free throws. Krystle Horton answered with a lay-up with a minute remaining and South Alabama answered with two free throws by Cortney Brown.

Down by as much as nine, 18-9, in the first half, Middle Tennessee launched a furious comeback in the last 12 minutes of the half. The Blue Raiders went on a 26-13 run to end the half as Chrissy Givens hit three three-pointers during the stretch.

The Blue Raiders took the lead for the first time in the half off a Givens lay-up and extended the lead to three with a Horton bucket. South Alabama tied the game for the second time when Ashley Gamble drained a three-pointer but Middle Tennessee answered with a trey of its own when LaCondra Mason nailed a long-ball from the right side. Johnna Abney added a second three to give Middle Tennessee a six-point lead heading into the locker room.

Givens led all scorers with 19 points and also connected on a career-high four three-pointers. Horton followed with 15 points and also had two steals. Brittany Pittman played a career-high nine minutes, and tied her career-high with two blocks in the game.

Middle Tennessee returns home on Saturday to host Troy. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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