# Blue Raiders rebound with 68-55 win over Samford

## Three score in double figures

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**AUBURN, Ala. -** Middle Tennessee used its Friday night loss as fuel on Saturday afternoon as it took a 68-55 win over Samford.

The Blue Raiders shot 39.6 percent as a team but used free throws to keep ahead as they made 21 in the game.

"I'm really proud of our team and the way they bounced back. I give our players and assistant coaches a lot of credit. The coaches did a great job with the scout and our team. We stayed in meetings and film until about 11:30 last night and I thought our players responded," head coach Kermit Davis said.

Senior James Washington led all scorers with 12 with r-sophomore Jason Jones and senior Trevor Ottley adding 11 and 10 respectively.

"We didn't have a great game offensively but kind of played what our mo should be and that is defending and being physical. Samford is a really good team; they beat Auburn by 11 last night, so it was a good win for us. We needed it psychologically and we are looking forward to the game with Auburn tomorrow," Davis said.

The Middle Tennessee defense held the Bulldogs to just 38.1 percent from the field and had 39 rebounds in the game. Of the Blue Raiders' 39 rebounds, 15 came on the offensive side of the ball. Middle Tennessee also had 10 steals in the game.

Samford used a four-minute scoring drought by Middle Tennessee to cut the lead to two but the Blue

Raiders scored seven straight to take the lead out to nine, 19-10. Middle Tennessee then went on a 9-3 run taking a 28-13 lead with 3:41 remaining in the first half.

Jason Jones went 4 for 7 from the field in the first half to lead all scorers with eight points. Middle Tennessee shot 41.4 percent from the field with 18 rebounds while holding Samford to 31.3 percent shooting.

In the second half, Middle Tennessee again went on a scoring drought but kept ahead and after a quick five-points took it back up to an 18-point lead, 49-31. 12 of Middle Tennessee's final 14 points were off free throws as the team scored just one basket after the 3:45 mark.

Middle Tennessee will conclude the Global Sports Hoops Showcase on Sunday, Nov. 21 when it faces host Auburn. The game with Auburn is set for 5 p.m. and will air locally in Murfreesboro on CSS.

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