

Blue Raiders take home win over ULM

Late trey by Gallman seals win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Late free throws and a huge trey by sophomore James Gallman helped give Middle Tennessee a 60-54 win over UL-Monroe on Thursday night at Murphy Center. Gallman, who had been struggle from behind the arc, made four treys and ended the night with a team high 14 points. "We were expecting them to foul. We ran kind of a spread, what we call a snap, offense. They were going to take it right down to the end, and there was like a three or four second differential on the game clock and the shot clock, but we did expect a foul. But in the end, we had good composure and James Washington made a nice play to the paint. When James Gallman shoots good threes, he makes threes.

When he shoots contested and off-balance three's, he's

like a lot of guys in college basketball. And that was set, a great pass, and a big shot for us," head coach Kermit Davis said. "That's the kind of shot we brought him here to shoot. He made big shots in high school, and he made big shots for us last year. He made four three's tonight, which was good on a night that we didn't shoot the ball very well from the perimeter. That was the shot of the game for sure, to put it over a one-possession game." The Blue Raiders (11-12, 6-4) shot 44.2 percent from the field as a team with r-sophomore Jason Jones and senior Trevor Ottley also posting double figure points. J. Jones went 5 for 8 from the field to score 12 points while Ottley added 10 after his perfect night at the charity stripe. Middle Tennessee had 27 rebounds, eight less than the Warhawks, and just six on the offensive side of the ball. Sophomore JT Sulton led the team in that category with eight while J. Jones added seven. ULM (6-18, 1-9) shot 38 percent from the field as a team with Tommie Sykes and Fred Brown each scoring in double figures. The team also had 13 offensive rebounds, 10 steals and three blocks in the game. "This game really sums up Monroe's season in the Sun Belt. Every one of their games has been just like tonight for the most part. One or



two possession games, tough luck at the end. They have four really talented players," head coach Kermit Davis said. "They out-rebounded us by eight. I thought our ball movement, although it got better in the second half, was kinda stale-mated, we tried to do too much off the dribble. But at the end, we were fortunate enough to make plays to win a big Sun Belt game for us, which we badly needed." S. Jones gave the Blue Raiders a five-point lead, 15-10, with 11:54 to play after a dunk and made free throw. The Warhawks then went on an 11-1 run to take a 21-16 lead with 6:37 to play. Middle Tennessee then rattled off seven straight to take the lead back over making it 23-21 with 2:39 remaining in the half. The Warhawks then scored seven unanswered of their own to take a 28-23 lead into the half. The Blue Raiders shot 40.9 percent at the break with Gallman and J. Jones each scoring a team high six points. The team also had 10 rebounds with Sulton grabbing a team high four rebounds. ULM's Brown led the team at the break with eight points as the team shot 50 percent from the field. Middle Tennessee started the second half strong going on an 18-10 run to take a 41-38 lead with 12:30 on the clock. The two teams continued to trade points and the lead late into the second half. Then Middle Tennessee made eight free throws to take a four-point lead, 55-51, with 52 seconds on the clock. ULM cut it to one after a trey by Hansberry making it 55-54 with 38 seconds to play. Washington drove the ball but could not get an open shot so he passed it to Gallman who made a three-pointer with 6.6 seconds on the clock to seal the win for the Blue Raiders. The Blue Raiders will play host to South Alabama Saturday, Feb. 5 at 3 p.m. on the front end of a doubleheader with the women's team. The game with the Jaguars will be Coaches vs. Cancer Night to raise awareness for the American Cancer Society and the respective coaching staffs will be wearing their sneakers. Chip Walters and Kyle Turnham will have all the action from Murphy Center on the Blue Raider Network. The Sun Belt Championships will be held in Hot Springs, Ark., March 4-8. Tickets for all sessions are \$83 and on sale through the Blue Raider Ticket Office by contacting 1-888-YES-MTSU or by visiting goblueraiders.com.

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