

November 6, 2001
Blue Raiders Upend Tennessee Temple
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Iiro Tenngren netted 20 points and 10 rebounds in leading Middle Tennessee to an 81-68 win over Tennessee Temple in the Blue Raiders' exhibition opener on Tuesday night.

Fellow veterans **Tommy Gunn** and **Bryant Mitchell** also contributed heavily to the team's victory. Gunn netted 13 points on 5-of-9 shooting and Mitchell added 10 rebounds in the contest.

However, a keen eye was cast to several newcomers for the Blue Raiders. **William Pippen** chipped in nine points, **John Humphrey** had seven, and **Charles Anderson** scored six to pace the rookies on the night.

Josh Templeton's 25 points led Tennessee Temple. Aaron Young scored 15 and Quincy Young netted 10 in the Crusaders' effort.

The big story for the Blue Raiders in the game was rebounding. Middle Tennessee grabbed a total of 41 boards while limiting the Crusaders to only 25. The advantage was even more pronounced in the first half when the hosts held a 26-9 edge on the glass.

"We rebounded well, which is something the coaches stressed in practice. The big guys especially had a good rebounding night," Tenngren said.

All told, head coach Randy Wiel was proud of his team's progress. However, he did stress that more work would be needed in practice in certain areas.

Wiel said "We didn't shoot the ball well. It is one aspect of our game we need to work on. Tonight we showed there is talent on the team, now we have to work on the chemistry. Tennessee Temple really spread the court on us tonight. They shot the ball well; it is one of their strengths. They always shoot the ball well when they come to play us. It seems they shot 80 percent tonight."

The Blue Raiders are set to play their final exhibition game on Monday, Nov. 12 against West Florida. Tip off is set for 7 PM. The team gets the regular season underway on Nov. 17 at home against Bryan College. Tip off for that contest is also set for 7 PM.

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