Lone road trip of December awaits Middle Tennessee

Blue Raiders face Xavier for third-straight year

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Stepping out of the friendly confines of the historic Murphy Center is next on the docket for the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team, as it travels to Cincinnati to face Xavier at 6 p.m. Central Friday. The game is the only away contest during December for the Blue Raiders, who are home for seven of the eight total played during the month.

Middle Tennessee will be looking to extend its winning ways after picking up a 69-63 triumph over Austin Peay at home Tuesday night. Three Blue Raiders reached double-figure scoring, led by 22 from sophomore Ebony Rowe, who also grabbed 10 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season.

MT built a 21-point first half lead against the Lady Govs, only to see it slip to a two-point difference after halftime. Middle Tennessee recovered and held on for the six-point victory.

Junior Kortni Jones continues to top the squad in scoring with 15.4 points per game, slightly ahead of Rowe's 15.0 average. Rowe has also added a team-high 10.2 rebounds per game and is knocking down a team-best 54.2 percent of her field goals.

Xavier, under the direction of first-year coach Amy Waugh, has won its last two games to improve to 3-4 on the season. The Musketeers have knocked off Cincinnati and Morehead State since Sunday,

including a 71-66 decision over the Eagles Tuesday night against former Blue Raider assistant coach Tom Hodges' team.

The two teams are meeting for the eighth time overall and for the third-straight season. Xavier holds a slim 4-3 edge in the series, claiming victories in each of the last two matchups.

The game can be heard on the Blue Raider Network (WMOT, 89.5 FM; WGNS, 1450 AM, 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM) with Dick Palmer handling the play-by-play duties.

Middle Tennessee returns home at 2 p.m. Sunday when it plays host to the ACC's Georgia Tech in an ESPN3.com clash. Chip Walters will serve as the play-by-play voice, while Kyle Turnham will step into the color analyst role for the broadcast, which will be produced by the MT student production group.

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