Lady Raiders Drop Tennessee State, 77-57

November 16, 2001 · MT Media Relations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Jamie Thomatis led three double-digit scorers with 16 points and the Lady Raiders forced 33 turnovers in a 77-57 victory over homestanding Tennessee State at the Gentry Center in the season opener for both squads Friday evening. Thomatis scored eight points in each half, while freshmen Patrice Holmes and Eboni Kirby both chipped in with 10 points in the win. Neither team shot the ball well from the floor and there were 61 turnovers in the contest. The Lady Raiders shot just 38 percent from the field, while TSU made only 32 percent of its shots, and went 6:59 without a basket late in the first half. Neither team made a three-point basket in the contest, as well. During TSU's long dry spell at the end of the opening 20 minutes, the Lady Raiders expanded the lead to as many as 15 points at 33-18 after Kirby made a pair of free throws. Kirby went 6-of-6 from the foul line in the contest, as MT made 17-of-20 from the charity stripe in the triumph. The lead was 12 at halftime for the Lady Raiders, and the Blue and White scored the first 10 points of the second half, with Thomatis hitting a pair of buckets and senior Jessica McClure netting the other six points during the run. Twelve of the 14 players who saw action scored for the Lady Raiders. McClure led the way with five assists, while freshman Tiffany Fisher added four assists in the game. LaRissa Thomas led TSU with 12 points and a game-high 15 rebounds, while Tristin Johnson added 10 for the Tigers. The Lady Raiders play at Georgia on Tuesday at 6 p.m. CT before the home opener on Saturday, November 24, against Cincinnati at 2 p.m.

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