

Belmont Downs Blue Raiders 65-59

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Middle Tennessee's bid to start 4-0 on the year fell short as the Belmont Bruins upended the Blue Raiders 65-59 at Municipal Auditorium in Nashville on Monday night. The Blue Raiders fell behind early and led only once in the contest. The MT lead was a 9-8 advantage coming at the 13:02 mark of the first half following a Lee Nosse jumper. The Blue Raiders made a couple of strong runs in the game, however, in an attempt to get back into the fray. After falling behind 30-16 in the first half, the Blue Raiders ran off seven straight points to cut the lead to seven with 2:26 left in the first half. The Blue Raiders would trail by 15 at the half, but would open up the second stanza on a strong note. A 10-2 run to open the second half would again cut the lead to



seven, but a trey from B.J. Proffitt pushed the Bruin lead back to 10 points. The Blue Raiders had one last gasp remaining in the game. The team again put together a strong push, reeling off an 11-3 run to cut the lead to six points with three from Dee Wilkes that forced a Belmont timeout with 2:15 left in the game. That would be as close as Middle Tennessee would come for the rest of the game. The Bruins made several foul shots down the stretch to seal the victory late in the game. The Blue Raiders outshot the Bruins in the game with a 40 percent clip from the field as compared to the 38 percent posted by the Bruins. However, the Bruins won the battle of the boards with a 38-33 rebound advantage in that category. Dee Wilkes led the Blue Raiders in scoring with 12 points in the game, marking the second time that he has led the team in scoring this season. William Pippen, Tommy Gunn, and John Humphrey each tallied 11 points in the game for Middle Tennessee. Lee Nosse led the team in rebounding for the first time this season with eight. The Blue Raiders will hit the road once again this weekend for a game against Radford at 3 PM on Saturday afternoon. **Scoring Machine**

Tommy Gunn netted double figures in scoring for the fifth consecutive game dating back to the Sun Belt Tournament a year ago. He posted a career high 20 points in that game against New Orleans.

Bruin Blues

Middle Tennessee is now 1-3 in the last four meetings against Belmont. The last MT win against the Bruins came in the 1999-2000 season at the Murphy Center. **Municipal Auditorium Visit**

The Blue Raiders played their first game in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium since the 1996 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. The Blue Raiders fell in that game also. **Head Coach Randy Wiel**

I thought we battled and played hard tonight, especially in the second half. We tried to get the ball inside, but [Belmont] really jams it up in there and draw fouls. They just didn't give us anything inside. We got a lot of open shots early but we just couldn't get them to fall.

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