

Holmes, Thomatis Lead MT to 68-60 Win

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CINCINNATI, Ohio - A 15-4 run to start the second half gave Middle Tennessee the lead, and the Lady Raiders withstood a pair of runs from the home team in defeating Xavier, 68-60, Sunday afternoon at the Cintas Center. Patrice Holmes hit a three-pointer in the corner with 11:11 remaining in the contest to give the Lady Raiders (6-5) a 44-38 advantage, ending the 15-4 run to start the second half. Holmes tied a career-high with 23 points, added five assists and grabbed six rebounds in the contest, breaking a two-game losing slide for the Lady Raiders and pushing Middle Tennessee's

road mark this season to 4-1. Jamie Thomatis added 20 points and a game-high eight rebounds for the Lady Raiders, including hitting both ends of a pair of one-plus-one opportunities in the final minute of the game. Thomatis was 8-for-8 from the foul line in the contest. The Lady Raiders committed just seven turnovers in the second half after having 11 in the opening 20 minutes. Jessica McClure had a great all-around game for Middle Tennessee, scoring seven points and grabbing six rebounds with three assists. Amy Waugh led three Xavier (4-7) players in double figures with 20 points, but just five in the second half. Alexis Henderson added 13 points and Reetta Piipari had 11 for the Musketeers. Kate Kreager, Shavon Bell and Henderson all grabbed seven rebounds for Xavier. The Lady Raiders played a competitive but sloppy first half against the Musketeers, trailing 34-29 at the break. Holmes had nine points in the half for Middle Tennessee, with Thomatis adding eight. The Lady Raiders trailed by just two in the final minute of the half until XU's Amy Waugh launched a 25-footer as the shot clock expired. The long three was good, giving the Musketeers the five-point halftime advantage. Both teams committed 11 turnovers in the first 20 minutes, but Xavier made up for it with a 16-9 edge on the boards. The Lady Raiders return to action December 29 against New Orleans at the Murphy Center at 1 p.m. to open Sun Belt Conference play. **GAME**

NOTES

Thomatis Moves Up Steals List: With four steals against Xavier, Jamie Thomatis moved past Natalie Sneed (1995-98) and into ninth on the career steals list at Middle Tennessee. The Destrehan, La., senior now has 153 career thefts.

HOLMES TIES CAREER-HIGH: Freshman Patrice Holmes tied her career-high with 23 points today

against Xavier. Holmes was 9-for-13 from the field in the contest and made two big three-pointers in the second half. It was the second straight double-digit scoring game for Holmes and the fourth this season. She also scored 23 points at Georgia in the OT loss to the Lady Bulldogs.

This -N' That: Jamie Thomatis started her 49th straight contest for the Lady Raiders - Thomatis moved into fifth all-time on the free throws attempted list at MT with eight in today's contest, moving her past Holly Hoover (1982-84). Thomatis has attempted 468 career free throws - Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders in scoring against Xavier, the first player this season other than Jamie Thomatis to have game-high honors in scoring - Thomatis scored 20 points in today's game, her 24th straight contest in double figures and the 54th in the last 55 Lady Raider games - Keisha McClinic sat out today's game with an injured right knee, the first game she has missed in her two-year career at Middle Tennessee.

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