

MT Loses to USA 59-51

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WILKES IN THE STARTING

FIVE AGAIN: Tonight's starting lineup had a different look. Dee Wilkes returned to the starting five after missing four starts. Wilkes injured his wrist three minutes into the game against Rice on Dec. 4 and not started since. In fact, Wilkes missed two games entirely due to the injury.

ANDERSON GETS FIRST

START: Freshman forward Charles Anderson made his first career start against the Jags on Friday night. Anderson responded by scoring a career-high 11 points against the Jags on a 3-of-3 night from the floor and a 5-for-5 performance from the

charity stripe. Anderson had not reached double figures in scoring since the season opener against Bryan College. **SNOW STOPS GUNN AND GLASPER:** Middle Tennessee was without the services of guards Tommy Gunn and Derek Glasper against South Alabama due to a snowstorm in the Northeast. Gunn, who hails from Syracuse, NY, and Glasper, who is from New Britain, CT, were not able to return to campus after the Christmas holiday due to inclement weather. The coaching staff is hopeful that the pair will be able to return for the New Orleans game on Sunday. **NOSSE STREAKS:** Senior center Lee Nosse continued one streak and saw another come to an end against South Alabama. Nosse tallied a team-high 13 points to give him five straight games with double figures in scoring. However, the Euclid, OH, native misfired on one free throw in the contest, stopping his streak of consecutive charity makes at 18. He is now shooting 84.4 percent from the line and is ahead of pace to break his own school record for single season free throw percentage. **NEXT STOP:** The Blue Raiders will travel to New Orleans to take on the Privateers on Sunday beginning at Noon. The game will mark the fourth of a five game road swing. The team will play Florida International on Jan. 5 to mark the end of the swing. The next game in the Murphy Center will come on Jan. 10 against New Mexico State. **THIS AND THAT:** The Blue Raiders have dropped 16 straight games away from home and 16 straight against Sun Belt opponents - Charles Anderson has made ten straight field goals - Middle Tennessee's game against New Orleans will mark the third time that the teams have played since MT joined the Sun Belt - the Blue Raiders are below .500 for the first time this season.

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