Three Raiders reach double-digits in win at FIU

Middle Tennessee collects 10th straight victory

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Box Score (PDF)

MIAMI, Fla. - Strong shooting and three double-figure scorers propelled the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team to its' 10th straight win on Thursday as MT downed FIU, 61-51.

There were seven lead changes early on as the game see-sawed back and forth in the first 10 minutes. MT (16-5, 11-1 Sun Belt) used a 17-4 run to close to half. FIU (13-8, 7-5) narrowed the game to single digits, but the Raiders held on, limiting the Panthers to 40 percent shooting (20-of-50) from the field.

Thursday evening's win kept the Blue Raiders in first place by two games in the Sun Belt East and avenged their only conference loss earlier this season.

Ebony Rowe narrowly missed a double-double, posting 23 points and grabbing nine boards. The junior forward was 11-of-16 from the field. She has reached double-figures in 29 consecutive games, the sixth longest streak nationally. The forward moved into 10th in school history with 1,517 points, passing Amber Holt's mark of 1,497.

Also reaching double-figures was Icelyn Elie with 12 points. The Lebanon native made 5-of-9 with seven rebounds. Kortni Jones added double numbers with 10 points and seven assists. Jones moved to fourth all-time in career assists at MT with 433.

Gainesboro's Caroline Warden reached a career-high with eight points, including a pair of makes behind the arc. KeKe Stewart added five points in 16 minutes of action.

During the opening stanza of the game, both teams traded baskets as the lead changed seven

times. Middle Tennessee used a 17-4 run to close out the first half and take a commanding lead into the locker room.

Rowe scored 12 points during that stretch as she reached No. 10 on the all-time scoring chart, passing Amber Holt's 1,497 points. Rowe completed the first half with 14 points and seven rebounds. The Raider offense made 14-of-27 from the field for 51 percent, while holding FIU to 34 percent (9-of-16).

In the second half, Arielle Durrant hit a layup at 14:02 to cut the Raiders' lead to 38-28. From there, Middle Tennessee continued to use its strong offensive play to go on an 11-6 run to take a 17 point lead with 10 minutes remaining.

Elie's layup with less than eight minutes remaining put the Raiders up by their largest margin of 19. FIU used a 9-to-5 run to cut the game to nine points with less than a minute remaining. MT used a free throw from Shanice Cason to close out the game.

The Blue Raiders close out their road trip on Saturday with a visit to Florida Atlantic. The front-end of the doubleheader tips at 2 p.m. CT.

NOTES

Ebony Rowe reached 10th all-time in scoring (1,517) with her 23 points, passing Amber Holt's 1,497 ... Kortni Jones moves to fourth in all-time assists (433) with her seven dishes on Thursday ... Icelyn Elie moved to seventh in offensive rebounds ... MT extends its school record conference road streak to 13 games ... The Blue Raiders are 18-9 all-time against FIU, including 13-4 under Rick Insell ... MT is 28-3 when Ebony Rowe scores 20 or more points ... The Blue Raiders are 12-1 this season when holding opponents under 60.

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