Blue Raiders Drop 3OT Heartbreaker

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ANDERSON STEPPING UP: For the third time in the last four games, true freshman Charlie Anderson has hit for double figures. Anderson, who has been given more playing time since the East Carolina contest five games ago, is averaging 9.8 points and 28.8 minutes over the past five outings. **NOSSE RIPS DOWN 15 BOARDS:** Senior Lee Nosse registered his third double-double of the season with 19 points and a career-high 15 rebounds. Nosse, who has a double-double in two straight home games, has scored in double figures eight consecutive times. **TRIPLE OT:** The Blue Raiders equaled their second longest game in school history by going three overtimes in the loss to NMSU on Thursday night. The longest game occurred on Feb. 12, 2000 when Middle Tennessee defeated Tennessee Tech in four extra periods. The only other three overtime game in school history came in 1980 against Western Kentucky. **GUNN SETS CAREER-HIGH:** Sophomore Tommy Gunn recorded a career-high 27 points against NMSU to better his previous scoring best of 22 points set against East Carolina earlier this season. Gunn also set personal marks in free throws made (9) and attempted (10), while equaling his career best with eight rebounds. **THIS -N' THAT:** Sophomore Stephen Jackson made his first collegiate start tonight against New Mexico State - Tonight's loss to NMSU marked the first setback of the season at home - Lee Nosse has now hit for double figures in eight straight games - The Blue Raiders have now hit at least one three-pointer in 172 straight contests - Point guard Eric Parham recorded his first career blocked shot tonight against NMSU - Junior William Pippen scored in double figures with 11 points against NMSU for the first time since recording 21 points in a win over Tennessee State - Pippen matched his career best with eight rebounds - The Blue Raiders shot a season best 87.1 percent from the free throw line (27-31), which was also the team's top effort since connecting on 89.5 percent of their charity tosses against

Campbell last year - The Blue Raiders are now just 1-10 during the month of January the past two seasons. **Head Coach Randy Weil**
: "I cannot fault us on the effort. We took them to three overtimes. If we make one shot at the end of the first or second overtime and we win the ballgame. We played hard and made shots when it mattered." "To tell you the truth, we battled and we took away all of their strengths. But they knocked down big shots when they needed it. We switched defenses on them. Parham played a great game." "For the most part, I knew they were big and strong underneath the basket. They got some key offensive rebounds and that really hurt us. I cannot pinpoint one thing exactly that cost us the game. Also, the first half was as good as we have played all year." **Tommy Gunn**
: "We played hard and battled with each other all night. But they got the win tonight and that was something we looked forward too. We thought we had it in the third overtime but they pulled it out." "Offensively we are getting it together and we are clicking mentally where the timing is very good on our team. Defensively we just have to step it up on certain aspects of our game. Once we do that, the other teams in the Sun Belt have something coming." **Lee Nosse**
: "We knew what we had to do coming into the game, and I don't think we got it done." "We came out at the beginning of the game and we knew we had to establish ourselves offensively. We have done that recently, especially on the road. In the second half they came out and executed their game plan. In overtime it was just two heavyweights going at it like Ali and Frazier." **New Mexico State Coach Lou Henson**
: "We didn't make free throws and they practically made all of their free throws. Offensively, they are a very good team and they showed that in the first half. But they missed some shots and then their defense stepped up in the second half. For us defensively, rebounding won the ballgame."

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