Blue Raiders Defeat Arkansas State 83-64

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HUMPHREY BACK ON TRACK: Junior John Humphrey reached double figures in scoring tonight for the first time since the East Carolina contest on Dec. 20. Humphrey finished with 10 points tonight and hit three three-pointers, which was one more than he had hit in his previous eight games combined. **JACKSON SETS CAREER-HIGH:** Stephen Jackson, who started his fourth game of the year tonight, poured in a career best 10 points in the win over Arkansas State. Jackson hit a personal best four field goals on five attempts in just 17 minutes of action. **BLUE RAIDERS KNOCKDOWN DOUBLE DIGIT THREE'S:** Middle Tennessee matched its third best output of the year from three-point range by connecting on 11 against ASU. It marked the sixth time this season the Blue Raiders have hit 10 or more in a single-game. Tommy Gunn and John Humphrey led the way with three each. **FIRST EAST WIN:** Tonight's 83-64 win over Arkansas State marked the first-ever win by the Blue Raiders over a team from the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference. The Blue Raiders were previously 0-12 against the East before the ASU victory. **CAREER-HIGH FOR ANDERSON:** True freshman Charlie Anderson ripped down a personal best eight rebounds in the win over Arkansas State. Anderson, who is averaging 2.6 caroms a game, had a previous game best of six against Florida International. **THIS -N' THAT:** The Blue Raiders shot better from behind the arc (64.7) than from two-point range (50.0) - MT is now 5-1 on the season when shooting better than 50 percent from the field - The Blue Raiders won just their second game of the season when trailing at the half - Eric Parham led the Blue Raiders in assists tonight for the 12th time this year with seven dishes - The Blue Raiders shot a sizzling 62.5 percent from the field (15-24) in the second half, including 6 of 8 from three-point range - Bryant Mitchell's seven rebounds tonight matched his season-high set earlier this year against UL-Lafayette - Lee Nosse made all his free throws tonight to extend his streak to eight straight - The battle between Nosse and ASU's Jennings ended in a wash as both played 30 minutes with Nosse scoring 15 points and getting eight rebounds, while Jennings added 16 points and six boards. **MT Head Coach Randy Wiel:**
I told the team that tonight was a team effort. Everybody that played contributed. Humphrey shot the ball real well, and Pippen played well coming off the bench. I was also impressed with Steven

[Jackson] tonight. He got us some cheap baskets and he really defended well. I thought we played with poise even when we lost the lead and had to come back. [ASU] is a veteran team, and their front line is awfully strong. I also liked our guard play tonight. We have been playing this way for a while, and sometimes we have just come up on the short end. Today, I think we played a good 40 minutes together. Rebounding, it looked like Charlie [Anderson] played like a man today under the boards. Our game plan was to go inside, but I told the guys let's not try to go over Jennings because he proved that he can block it. Instead, we tried to draw the double team and kick it out. Eric [Parham] played a pretty good floor game, him and Dee [Wilkes] both. Eric gave us the speed and Dee gave us the experience." **John Humphrey:**

We have always wanted to run, but we had the tendency to turn the ball over. Tonight we weren't turning the ball over so Coach [Weil] let us run. I came in the gym and shot 100 threes before the game. I'm not usually struggling like this, so it's a first for me but I'll get through it. My teammates will help me out, so I'll be okay. **Tommy Gunn:**

Offensively, we did a good job today. We played together as a team. We knew we had to get some good defensive stops, and we did that tonight. We stepped up the defense this game, and we are looking to do that for the rest of the conference race. **ASU Head Coach Dickey Nutt:**

I thought we did pretty decent in the first half. Right now we are hanging our hats on offense. We are trying to hold our hats on offense. We are just trying to get some scoring. When they shut Jason [Jennings] down, we basically got out of synch. We have got to get back to hanging our hats on defense. We have to take better pride defensively.

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