# Lady Raiders Make Run but Fall to Denver 78-63

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**NEW ORLEANS, La. -**Middle Tennessee's Lady Raiders (16-13) trimmed a 21 point deficeit at halftime to eight (69-61), with three minutes to play, but fell to No. 3 seed from the West Denver (16-12) 78-63 Sunday at the Sun Belt Conference Tournament at Lakefront Arena. In the second half, Middle Tennessee went on a 16-2 run, beginning at the six-minute mark, to turn a potential blow out into a game. Key baskets from senior Jamie Thomatis and Jennifer Justice helped the Lady Raiders make their push, but hot shooting from Denver wouldn't let the Lady Raiders trim the lead smaller than eight. Denver made a run of it's own to start the game, as the Pioneers opened up a 23-8 lead in the first seven minutes of the game. In the midst of their run, a technical foul was called on Justice after she pushed a Denver player. In the second half, the Middle Tennessee bench was also pegged with a technical foul. Thomatis made her mark by scoring 28 points in the game and grabbing eight rebounds. She also moved into second in career scoring with 1,971 points, which overtakes Priscilla Robinson (1991-94) who had 1,969. The youth on the Lady Raider roster also made their presence known as Freshman of the Year Patrice Holmes recorded her second double-double of her career with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Justice had 18 points and was 4-4 from the free throw line. Middle Tennessee will wait to see if its season is over, as the team is still hoping for a bid to the WNIT.

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