

Soccer Drops 2-1 Affair to Southern Miss

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. --

Visiting Southern Miss scored twice in five minutes to erase a one-goal deficit and defeat Middle Tennessee, 2-1, Friday afternoon at the Blue Raider Soccer Field in the opening home match of the season for the Blue Raiders. The two teams played a very physical match, with 38 fouls called between the clubs and many more that could have been whistled. Middle Tennessee's Sarah Schulz and Ashley Elliott each earned yellow cards in the second half. The Golden Eagles controlled much of the action in the first half and had the majority of scoring chances, but Blue Raider keeper Emily Shrum made five big saves in the first



45 minutes to keep the match scoreless at halftime. USM again controlled the action for the first 10 minutes after halftime, but then the Blue Raiders picked up the pace and it paid off. Danielle LaDuke hit a one-timer from about 12 yards out that sailed past USM keeper Leslie Schoeplein for a 1-0 Blue Raider lead in the 58th minute. The Blue Raiders took control of the match for another 10 minutes before Southern Miss found a second wind and began attacking again, this time with success. Golden Eagle Tricia Wiles raced down the right sideline with a ball in the 73rd minute, then crossed it toward the front of the net, where the ball ricocheted off a Blue Raider defender for an own goal and a tie contest. The Golden Eagles continued to attack and got the game-winner in the 77th minute, as Chelsey Brown assisted on Lauren Prewitt's shot to give USM a 2-1 edge with just 13 minutes remaining in the match. The Blue Raiders (1-3) had one last shot at the two-minute mark, as LaDuke made a run down the right sideline and crossed to the back post, where Brooke Ward dribbled and shot just high and right. Southern Miss (2-2) outshot the Blue Raiders, 18-11, in the match, and had six corners to one for Middle Tennessee. Shrum made eight saves in the match, with Schoeplein making five for the winners. The Blue Raiders played without three starters in the match, senior Sheri Robbins and juniors Emily Carter and Christina Mascaro. Carter and Robbins both missed the contest with a high ankle sprain, and Mascaro has a sprained MCL in her right knee. The Blue Raiders host Drury at 1 p.m. Sunday before hitting the road again to take on Auburn and Alabama next Friday and Sunday, respectively.

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