

Blue Raiders Come Back For 3-1 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Middle Tennessee erased an early one-goal deficit, as Danielle LaDuke scored the game-winner and had an assist in a 3-1 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock Friday afternoon at Blue Raider Soccer Field. The visiting Trojans (4-7-0, 0-3 Sun Belt) netted the match's first goal in the 23rd minute, as Heather Tarar fed Jessica Burke, who floated a ball into the upper corner of the net for her first goal of the season. But the Blue Raiders (5-6-1, 1-1 SBC) did not trail for long, scoring nine minutes later when LaDuke slid a ball to Laura Miguez, who beat the UALR keeper far post with a low shot to knot the contest at one. Neither team could muster another goal for 35 minutes, but the Blue Raiders controlled the pace of play in the second half. Middle Tennessee took 20 shots in the second half and forced Trojan keeper Marsha Stewart to make six saves after the intermission, as well as one from a



defender. In the 66th minute Jessica Northcutt fed LaDuke, who beat Stewart shortside for her fifth goal of the year. The Blue Raiders added an insurance goal in the 89th minute when Lindsey Bopp took a shot from 25 yards that skidded past the keeper. Ashley Elliott assisted on the final goal. Emily Shrum made one save to pick up her fifth win of the year for Middle Tennessee, while Stewart had 10 saves in the match. The Blue Raiders outshot UALR, 28-10, and took six corners to two for the visitors. "At first, the intensity was not there for a conference game," Blue Raider head coach Aston Rhoden said. "Once we put points on the board we calmed down some and played much better. The most positive aspect to the whole match for us was that no one else got hurt." Middle

Tennessee hosts Arkansas State at 1 p.m. Sunday in another conference match. The Blue Raiders play five of their last seven matches at home with a road trip to Denver and North Texas sandwiched in-between.

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