Lady Raiders Drop 3-2 Decision to UAB

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The UAB Blazers overcame a one-game deficit and won the final two games to defeat Middle Tennessee, 3-2, Tuesday night in volleyball action in Alumni Memorial Gym. The Blazers (6-13) won the second game of the match but fell behind, 2-1, before rallying for the victory. Middle Tennessee (10-8) jumped out to an early 15-5 lead in the first game and led 28-17 at one point, only to watch the Blazers close to within 29-24 before Dara McLean's kill sealed the opening game for the Lady Raiders. McLean, Jennifer Hignite and Katie Thiesen all had three kills in the opening game, while KeKe Deckard had six digs and Kimberly Moeller added four. The Lady Raiders hit at a .265 percentage in the game. But the Blazers responded with a strong second game, leading early 19-8 en route to a 30-13 game two victory. Kristi Lee and Lindsay Joyce each had four kills in the game, while Lee and Breanne Swenson each had three digs. UAB hit at an unheard-of .481 percentage in the game. The third game was a seesaw battle until the Lady Raiders pulled away in the end for a 30-24 victory and a two-games-to-one lead. Thiesen had five kills and McLean and Hignite each added three kills in the game. Moeller recorded seven digs and Deckard had five, as the Lady Raiders tallied a .216 attack percentage in the game. The fourth game again went back-and-forth between the two clubs. The Blazers tied the biggest lead in the game by either team at three with a 25-22 lead, but the Lady Raiders pulled within one on kills by Thiesen and Hignite. The Lady Raiders pulled even at 26, the 18th tie of the game, but the Blazers scored three of the next four points for a 29-27 lead. A net error on the Lady Raiders gave the game to the Blazers, 30-27. Martina Shields had four kills in the game for UAB, and Allison Wagner added 13 digs. Deckard tallied seven kills and five digs in the game that had 19 ties. The

two teams tied at three in the final game before the Blazers scored seven of the next nine points for a 10-5 advantage in the final game. The Lady Raiders would get no closer than five the rest of the way, as Lee's kill was the game-winner for a 15-9 final game score. Shields led the winners with 19 kills, followed by 15 from Lee. Magner had 15 digs and Dina Katsoulis added 10 for the Blazers. Deckard and Thiesen each registered 15 kills to lead Middle Tennessee, with McLean chipping in a dozen and Hignite 11. Deckard tallied her 11th double-double of the season by adding 19 digs, while Kelly Cannon had 42 assists and 11 digs in the match. Moeller led the Lady Raiders in digs with 28. The Lady Raiders play their next four matches on the road, beginning this Friday at Florida International at 6:30 p.m. CT. Middle Tennessee also travels to Tennessee next Tuesday for a 6 p.m. CT match. The next home match for the Lady Raiders is against New Orleans at 4 p.m. on October 26.

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