

Miguez Scores Twice in 2-0 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Laura Miguez scored twice and keeper Emily Shrum preserved her third shutout of the season, as the Blue Raiders defeated Western Kentucky, 2-0, Friday afternoon at Blue Raider Soccer Field. The Blue Raiders (7-8-1, 3-3 Sun Belt) avenged a tough 1-0 loss from last season to the Lady Toppers, as Miguez scored in the 20th minute and again in the final minute of the match for the victory. The two teams traded possession for the first 25 minutes of the match, but it was Middle Tennessee that took advantage of a scoring opportunity to get on the board first. After a cross was cleared by the Lady Toppers (8-5-0, 3-2 SBC), senior defender Sarah Schulz stepped forward and chipped a ball back into the



box. Miguez beat WKU keeper Amy Uhlman to the ball, chipping it past Uhlman for her sixth goal of the season and an early 1-0 Middle Tennessee advantage. The two clubs went to halftime with the score still 1-0 and neither team mustering many scoring chances in the first 45 minutes. The Blue Raiders had five shots to two for WKU, and the Lady Toppers had the only corner kick of the half. In the second half the Lady Toppers controlled the possession and had a host of scoring opportunities, including hitting the post once and the crossbar once, much the same as the Blue Raiders did in their defeat a year ago. Shrum made a pair of saves in the second half and the Blue Raider defense cleared away a number of dangerous crosses. In the final two minutes Middle Tennessee had a pair of corner kicks, the first after Miguez ripped a shot from the top of the 18 that was saved by WKU keeper Melissa Bailey. Bailey played the final 59 minutes for the Lady Toppers in goal. After the second corner kick was headed over the net by Blue Raider Christina Mascaro, Bailey's goal kick was redirected downfield by Middle Tennessee's Jessica Northcutt. Miguez gained control, took one dribble and fired it in the back of the net for the clincher. "It was a very good team effort, probably one of the best we've had all year," Blue Raider head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We took

advantage of some chances and played well for the 90 minutes. This is a very big win and now we need to carry the momentum into these final four matches." Middle Tennessee outshot WKU, 16-9, in the match, and had all four of its corners in the final 45 minutes. Bailey made three saves for the Lady Toppers in goal. The Blue Raiders host Austin Peay Sunday at 1 p.m. in a nonconference tilt and play their final two regular season matches next weekend at home on Friday and Sunday, both against conference foes.

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