

Soccer Drops Heartbreaker, 3-2

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Visiting South Alabama scored the game-winner with 44 seconds remaining to defeat Middle Tennessee 3-2 Friday afternoon in Sun Belt action at Blue Raider Soccer Field. The Blue Raiders (8-10-1, 3-4 SBC) controlled play for much of the first half, playing with a strong Southerly breeze. Middle Tennessee peppered USA keeper Amber Angiemeier with shots in the opening 45 minutes, forcing Angiemeier to make three saves in the half. The Blue Raiders finally struck in the 31st minute when sophomore Jessica Northcutt stepped up on a deflected ball and struck a floating shot from 25 yards that sailed over Angiemeier's



head for Northcutt's first career goal and a 1-0 MT lead. Middle Tennessee kept up the pressure and made it a two-goal advantage when Danielle LaDuke crossed a ball to Laura Miguez, and Miguez found the back of the net for the ninth time this year. The Blue Raiders took that lead to halftime, outshooting USA, 11-4, in the first half. But the Jaguars (7-8-3, 3-3-1 SBC) had the opportunity of playing with the wind in the second half and took full advantage. Kathy Steinmetz stepped up on a deflected ball from 30 yards in the 61st minute and beat Blue Raider keeper Emily Shrum to cut the MT lead to 2-1. A bouncing ball that hit off several people and looked to be cleared instead stayed deep in the box and Julia Herman tied the score at two in the 78th minute with her 11th tally of the season. With the score tied, both teams stepped up the intensity for the final 10 minutes, and the Blue Raiders seemed to seize control of the momentum. Three corner kicks in the final two minutes for the Blue Raiders came up empty, and the final one was cleared away by the Jaguars to Steinmetz, who found Tanya Allegretti. Allegretti made a long run through several Blue Raider defenders and whiffed on her first kick at the ball with Shrum directly in front of her. But Allegretti's second try was good for the game-winner in the final minute to give South Alabama a hard-fought conference victory. "We came out and played really well to start the game. The difference was we didn't take advantage of the opportunities we had to put the game away in the first half," Blue Raider head coach Aston Rhoden said. "2-0 is the worst lead to have in soccer because one goal gets the other team back in the game." Middle Tennessee had 13 shots to 12 for the Jaguars in the match,

and the Blue Raiders took five corners to two for USA. Angiemeier made four saves to get the victory, with Shrum making two in defeat. The Blue Raiders finish the regular season Sunday on Senior Day by hosting Louisiana-Lafayette at 1 p.m.

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