

Nation's highest-scoring tandem strikes again

Grogan, Morgan combine for four goals, two assists as Blue Raiders win seventh straight

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The dynamic scoring duo of Holly Grogan and Kala Morgan struck again as Middle Tennessee rolled to a 5-0 win against Louisiana-Lafayette at Blue Raider Field Friday night. The Blue Raiders (13-2, 7-0) tied the single-season record for wins with the victory.

Morgan and Grogan, ranked No. 3 and No. 11 nationally in goals per game, respectively, scored two goals and added an assist each as the nation's highest-scoring tandem continued to fuel the Blue Raiders' offensive assault.

Middle Tennessee, which entered the game with the nation's second-highest scoring offense, won its seventh straight overall, its 14 in succession against Sun Belt Conference opponents, and its 19th straight at Blue Raider Field.

"It was another team win and the girls came out focused," Middle Tennessee coach Aston Rhoden said. "This was a solid win for the team in that Louisiana-Lafayette is a very good team and they are a hot team so we had to play well against them in all facets of the game."

In addition to the scoring prowess of Grogan and Morgan, freshman Jen Threlkeld scored her seventh goal of the season in the win. Katy Rayburn, Katie Daley, Rebecca Rodriguez, and Threlkeld also had assists.



Morgan wasted little time getting the offense started when she took a brilliant cross from defender Katy Rayburn and headed it in just 38 seconds into the match. Morgan knocked in her nation-leading 15th goal of the season less than three minutes later on an assist from Grogan to stake the Blue Raiders to a 2-0 cushion.

After Grogan fed Morgan an assist on the second goal the favor was returned when Morgan delivered a cross to an overlapping Grogan who powered the ball past keeper Stephanie Weston for her 12th goal of the season and a 3-0 Blue Raider lead in the 32nd minute.

Grogan collected her second goal of the game and 13th of the season three minutes into the second half when Daley and Threlkeld combined for an assist, and Threlkeld capped the scoring on an assist from Rodriguez in the 55th minute.

The Blue Raider defense continued to sparkle as it turned in the seventh shutout of the season, which is tied for second on the single-season list. The Blue Raider defense has recorded three straight shutouts and has blanked the opposition in five of the last six games. Middle Tennessee has outscored its opponents 30-1 during this remarkable stretch.

The reliable back line of Ingrid Christensen, Sara Wohlhueter, and Rayburn was outstanding and consistent, while the starting midfield of Daley, Mary Zapapas, Kathrine Andresen, and Nenita Burgess helped ignite the early spark and seize control of the game from the outset.

Murray continued to shine in goal with her third shutout of the season and her eighth win in 10 starts. She came away with a career-high seven saves against the Ragin' Cajuns as the Blue Raiders snapped the visitor's four-game winning streak. Murray extended her impressive scoreless streak to 530:20 over the course of seven matches.

Middle Tennessee concludes its weekend series against Louisiana-Monroe Sunday at 1 p.m. at Blue Raider Field.

NOTES: Middle Tennessee increased its Blue Raider Field win streak to 19, while also winning its seventh straight overall, and 14th straight against Sun Belt Conference competition ... Middle Tennessee tied the single-season record for wins with 13, held by the 2004 and 2005 squads ... Kala Morgan moved into second on the single-season lists for points (37), and goals (15), and into a tie for ninth with seven assists ... Morgan moved into fourth on the career points list (57), fifth on the career goals list (22), and fifth on the career assists list (12) ... Holly Grogan also made significant moves in Friday's win. She moved into third on the single-season lists for points (35), goals (13), and assists (9). Grogan also moved into third on the Middle Tennessee career lists for points (74), and second on the all-time list for goals (30) - just one behind teammate Rebecca Rodriguez for first all-time ... Rodriguez moved to within three points of the career lead with 84. Her assist was the 22nd of her career and moved her into second on the all-time list in that category ... Katy Rayburn started in her 74th career game (all in succession), which is tied for third all-time.

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