

Holmes Nets Golden Goal in 4-3 Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Freshman Rachel Holmes found the back of the net on an assist from Christina Mascaro just over two minutes into overtime for a golden goal, giving Middle Tennessee a 4-3 victory over league-leading North Texas Sunday afternoon at Blue Raider Field. The two squads battled hard through regulation, an intense, physical match that had 32 shots and 42 fouls between the clubs. Heat also played a factor in the match, as both teams used a short bench to try and pull out an important Sun Belt victory. In overtime, Mascaro gained control of the ball down the leftside and dribbled deep into the box before crossing. Holmes kicked it in at the back post for the victory, the fourth SBC win of the year for the Blue Raiders (9-6-0, 4-1-0 SBC) and the first in five tries against North Texas. The visiting Mean Green (10-4-0,



3-1-1) got on the board in the 10th minute to take an early lead. After a corner kick was cleared short, UNT's Kristen Campbell fed Jessica Koschmann wide and Koschmann found Marilyn Marin far post. Marin juked Blue Raider keeper Danielle Perreault and fired it into the back of the net for her 14th score of the season. The goals came fast and furious in the middle of the first half for both teams, as the two squads combined for four scores in a span of 2:53. Middle Tennessee's Claire Ward tied the match at one in the 33rd minute on a free kick from the top of the box, chipping into the upper left corner past UNT keeper Briana Buchanan for Ward's second score of the season. Blue Raider Laura Miguez scored just 21 seconds later, taking a blast from 20 yards and beating Buchanan for a 2-1 lead and Miguez's seventh goal of the year. The advantage was short-lived, as the Mean Green came right back to tie the match just over a minute later. Melinda Pina took a pass wide, beat her defender and fired past Perreault in the 34th minute for her 17th goal of the year. But

the Blue Raiders took the lead back in the 36th minute when Rebecca Rodriguez dribbled deep into the box and crossed to the back post, where Brooke Ward tallied her second score of the year for a 3-2 Middle Tennessee halftime lead. Both squads had ample opportunities in the second half to take the lead after UNT knotted the match at three in the 62nd minute, as Pina made a long run down the left side and beat Perreault to tie the match. The two keepers combined for six saves in the second half, facing a total of 15 shots. The score for Holmes was her first of the season and could not have come at a better time. The two squads played an overtime match in the only other meeting in Murfreesboro two years ago with the identical score, as Blue Raider Danielle LaDuke score the game-tying goal in the final minute of regulation. But UNT's Marilyn Marin scored just 1:36 into OT in 2001 to give the Mean Green the victory. Middle Tennessee continues SBC action Friday with a 5 p.m. match at Western Kentucky. The Blue Raiders host Samford next Sunday at 1 p.m., as five seniors will play their final home match.

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