

Lady Raiders Fall to UNO 3-1

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WESTWEGO, LA.- Middle Tennessee (9-16, 2-7 SBC) lost 3-1 (26-30, 30-20, 30-16, 30-28), to New Orleans (9-16, 3-6 SBC) in Sun Belt volleyball action Saturday night at the Alario Center.

Middle Tennessee took control of the first set with an 8-2 run to begin the game. UNO slowly chipped into the Lady Raider lead and trimmed the margin to two points at 13-11. However, behind five kills from KeKe Deckard, Middle Tennessee kept the Privateers at bay for the 30-26 win.

The second set proved to be a different story, as UNO posted the first seven points of the game en route to a 10-1 advantage. Out-hitting the Lady Raiders, .289 to .053, the Privateers dominated the set for the easy 30-20 win.

After the two teams battled to a 7-7 tie to begin the third game, Cruz took over for the Privateers, tallying seven kills in a decisive 11-1 run that gave UNO a commanding 18-8 lead. Cruz finished the set with 10 kills as the Privateers romped to the 30-16 win with a blistering .447 attack percentage.

In the closest game of the match, the Privateers and Lady Raiders recorded 10 ties and six lead changes in the fourth set. Middle Tennessee held a 19-18 lead before UNO posted a 6-1 run to take a 24-20 advantage. The Privateers held off a late Lady Raider charge and freshman Amanda Meyers (Slidell, La.) sealed the win with a kill as UNO emerged with the 30-28 victory.

Meyers and sophomore Jessica Helgeson (River Ridge, La.) each added 11 kills for the Privateers. Junior Christine Zimmer (New Orleans, La.) narrowly missed a double-double with nine kills and a match-high 23 digs while junior Ana-s Urdaz (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and sophomore Jayne Duncan (Metairie, La.) both tallied double-digit digs with 14 and 11, respectively.

Deckard finished with 17 kills for the Lady Raiders while Karisse Baker chipped in 16 kills.

Middle Tennessee returns home on Tuesday to face former OVC rival Tennessee Tech at 6 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Gym.



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