Blue Raiders Battle to 1-1 Draw

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MOBILE, Ala. - Middle Tennessee's Laura Miguez scored the game-tying goal in the 80th minute to give the Blue Raiders a 1-1 double-overtime tie against South Alabama Friday night at The Cage.

Middle Tennessee controlled play for much of the first half and had several excellent scoring chances. Laura Miguez had two good shots from 18 yards before Rebecca Rodriguez chipped past USA keeper Amber Angiemeier, but Jaguar defender Rebecca Kahn cleared the shot just before it crossed the goal line.

Neither squad could muster a goal in the opening half. South Alabama came out after the break and raised its level of intensity for the first five minutes of the second half before the Blue Raiders took back control of the match.

Again Middle Tennessee peppered the net, but Angermeier was up to the challenge, making stop after stop. The Jaguars broke through late in the half, as Karrie Johnson misfired from 20 yards but came back just after to put the home team on the board.

The Blue Raiders committed a turnover at midfield and USA took advantage, as Sarah Trease fed the ball down the middle to Johnson, who chipped it past Middle Tennessee keeper Danielle Perreault in the 76th minute for a 1-0 Jaguar lead.

But the Blue Raiders came right back and scored just four minutes later. A mad scramble in front of the net after a corner involved at least half a dozen shots by Middle Tennessee before Miguez's chipper from 20 yards went off the hands of Angermeier and into the net for the game-tying score in the 80th minute.

But the USA keeper redeemed herself shortly afterward, making a pair of diving, game-saving saves on Rodriguez one-v-one chances in the final 10 minutes. Neither squad could find the back of the net in regulation, forcing the Blue Raiders into their third overtime match in the last four outings.

South Alabama controlled much of the play in the first overtime, including a pair of corner kicks, but

the Blue Raiders cleared the ball on both occasions.

Middle Tennessee had the ball for most of the second overtime, but could not put any in the net, as the Blue Raiders collected their second tie in three matches and second straight Sun Belt tie.

Angermeier made 10 saves in the match, and the Jaguars had five team saves. Perreault made just two saves in the match, one in overtime.

Middle Tennessee finishes the regular season Sunday with a 1 p.m. match at Louisiana-Lafayette. The Sun Belt Championships begin Wednesday at Western Kentucky in Bowling Green, Ky.

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