Volleyball Wins Bluejay Invitational; Adams Named MVP

Ashley Adams named tournament MVP

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Omaha, Neb. - Middle Tennessee stayed perfect winning its ninth straight game in the team's 3-0 win (32-30, 30-19, 33-31) over the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks Saturday afternoon in the Blue Raiders' final match of the Creighton Bluejay Invitational. The win secured Middle Tennessee as tournament champion. Junior Ashley Adams (Columbus, Ohio) was named the tournament MVP, while senior Quanshell Scott (Bakersfield, Calif.) received All-Tournament honors. Five Blue Raiders reached double digits for kills led by junior Ashley Asberry (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) with a new career-high 15. Adams added 14, sophomore Ashley Mead (Newnan, Ga.) had 12 and Scott (Bakersfield, Calif.) freshman Izabela Kozon (Warsaw, Poland) had 11 each. The Blue Raiders (3-0) had a solid all-around game with 68 kills, with over 20 kills per game, and 70 digs, while



Stephen F. Austin (1-1) only accumulated 49 kills and 49 digs. "Obviously, I think in this match and in the Creighton match, we came back from big deficits at the end of the game, and that was huge. It's a great sign at this early part of the season that we're working things out on the court at the end of games and playing our best ball when we need to." Middle Tennessee head coach Matt Peck said. "I think our returning players from last year, Ashley Adams, Ashley Asberry, Alicia Lemau'u, Quanshell Scott and Leslie Clark, all did extremely well this weekend, and our new faces on the court Izabela Kozon, Ashley Mead did more than we expected they would at this early point." Middle Tennessee

and Stephen F. Austin volleyed back-and-forth in the first game with the Blue Raiders holding the lead until the Ladyjacks tied up the score at 20-20. Stephen F. Austin took its first lead of the game on a service ace before breaking away to lead by as many as five at 27-22. Adams and Asberry had six and five kills in the first game, with Asberry putting away the game with back-to-back kills. Two kills by Adams on points 28 and 29 pulled the Blue Raiders back into the game. Kozon proved to be the go-to hitter to in game two, racking up seven kills, including two of the last four points. In game three, the Blue Raiders found themselves trailing the Ladyjacks by six at game point. But in a similar fashion to game one, the team dug itself out behind the consistent serving by sophomore Leslie Clark (Olathe, Kan.), who served six straight points. Blocking proved to be the deciding factor of the game. The Blue Raiders scored four of their final six points off of blocks with Asberry and Mead picking up three block assists each, and Scott and Kozon recording the final point for the win with a block. Senior libero Alicia Lemau'u (Long Beach, Calif.) paced the Blue Raiders' defense with 19 digs and adding a service ace. Kozon set a new career best with 16 digs, and Adams added 11. Senior Traci Rohde and junior Lauren Railey posted a team-high 12 kills for the Ladyjacks with junior Shelly Swendig close behind with 11. Railey also had the team-high 17 digs and added three block assists. The Blue Raiders head to Ames, Iowa, to face Iowa State on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. for a single-match. All-Tournament Team Ashley Adams, Middle Tennessee (MVP) Quanshell Scott, Middle Tennessee Bianca Rivera, Creighton Korie Lebeda, Creighton Lauren Railey, Stephen F. Austin Laura Viren, Montana State Notes: Sophomore Leslie Clark tied the Bluejay Invitational record with 156 total assists over the tournament. The previous mark was set by Kiley Fister of Iowa last season. Freshman Izabela Kozon recorded her first career double-double at Middle Tennessee with 11 kills and 16 digs. Kozon's 16 digs sets a new personal best. Her previous high was 15, set against Creighton on Aug. 24. The first point of all three games for Middle Tennessee was earned from a kill by junior Ashley Asberry. Asberry set a new career-high for kills with 15. Her previous high was 14 was set on Sept. 3 last season against St. Mary's. Stephen F. Austin's bench received a yellow card during game three at the 3-2 mark with the Ladyjacks leading. And Shelly Swendig received a yellow card later in the game at the 29-29 mark. Sophomore Ashley Mead tallied 12 kills, setting a new personal best. Her previous best of nine was set against Montana State on Aug. 24. Junior Ashley Adams tallied her second career double-double, second of the tournament and season. For the second year in a row and second under head coach Matt Peck, the Blue Raiders went 3-0, winning their opening tournament.

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