Three Players in Double Figures in 10th Consecutive Victory

Blue Raiders one of only eight ranked teams still undefeated

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - It was the Ashley Show for 25th-ranked Middle Tennessee on Saturday, as Ashley Adams, Ashley Asberry and Ashley Mead all posted double figure kills in a 3-0 victory (30-16, 30-22, 30-21) over UT-Arlington in the Blue Raider Bash at Alumni Memorial Gym. The win moves the Blue Raiders to 10-0 on the season, improving on the best start in school history. Middle Tennessee is also one of only eight teams in the Top 25 still undefeated this season. Adams led the three players with 13 kills, while Mead totaled 11 and Asberry had 10. Adams and Quanshell Scott both tallied six blocks and Asberry added four. Middle Tennessee came back from a lackluster performance Friday night against Georgia State and really controlled play for much of the match against a very good UT-Arlington (5-4)club. The Blue Raiders hit .306 for the match, including .455 in the first game. Middle Tennessee made just 19 errors in 108 chances, including none from Asberry in 13 opportunities and only two by Adams in 27 total attacks. Another big story in the match was freshman setter Alyssa King, who tallied 44 kills in her first collegiate start. Starter Leslie Clark was knocked out of the Georgia State match and missed Saturday's outing. Her status for Sunday's match against Missouri State is still undetermined. "One of the things about Alyssa is nothing really gets to her. She doesn't get frazzled and she has a really positive outlook on

the court," head coach Matt Peck said. "She makes the players around her believe in her and do well and that's exactly what happened in this match. "She was telling players what to hit, experienced players, an All-American. She did a very good job. We lost absolutely nothing there going from Leslie to her." The Blue Raiders started fast in the first game, winning the first eight points of the match before the Mavericks called timeout. Asberry had a kill, Alicia Lemau'u served an ace and Adams posted a kill. Lemau'u had another ace and Izabela Kozon registered a kill before UTA's timeout ended the run. Scott got into the action with a pair of kills and a solo block as well, giving the home team a 15-6 advantage. Mead totaled four kills in the game, all in a span of 15 points, as Middle Tennessee had just five errors in 33 total attacks in the game. Asberry, Adams and Kozon registered kills in the final three points for a 30-16 Game One victory. King tallied 17 kills in the set. Middle Tennessee had to work much harder in the second game, battling UTA until the very end. The game had 11 ties and eight lead changes. Adams and Asberry started with back-to-back kills and Kozon tallied one of her four kills in the game. Mead recorded another kill and Adams posted three straight kills for the Blue Raiders. Kozon and Scott combined for a block and a 14-12 Blue Raider lead, but the Mavericks would not go away, scoring 3-of-4 points for a 19-18 advantage. But Kozon posted a pair of kills and Asberry had another late in the game before Scott and Adams had a big block to end the 30-22 Game Two victory. Middle Tennessee controlled the third game from the beginning thanks to five kills from Mead and four each by Adams and Asberry. Scott and Adams got the game started with a block and Scott followed that with a kill two points later. Adams served a pair of aces and Kozon had a kill for an early 7-4 advantage. Asberry posted a pair of kills and Adams had another for an 11-8 lead. Adams registered another kill in the middle of the game and Scott and Mead combined for three kills in four points for a 19-12 edge. Kozon and Scott combined for a block at 25-16 and Mead had two more kills over the last six points, including the final point of the match in a 30-21 Game Three triumph. "I think this goes back to what I've been saying all along, that we play better against good teams. We had a freshman out there on the court running the offense, someone we were going to redshirt. All things considered, this was the type of match we needed going into a tough match [Sunday] against Missouri State," Peck said. The fourth-year head coach said his team started the match much better than the two on Friday and has played very good defense all weekend. "We were really playing well at the beginning. We really had it going right from the start," Peck said. "We did a really good job denying [UT-Arlington] kills. The last three matches, Northeastern hit negative, Georgia State hit .105 and [UT-Arlington] hit .009. They're barely above negative and that's because of our blocking and defense." Middle Tennessee completes its home weekend Sunday with a 4 p.m. match against the Bears of Missouri State at Alumni Memorial Gym.

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