Raiders Suffer First Loss, 3-1

Defeat ends best start in school history with 10 straight victories

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Ashley Adams registered 20 kills, 11 blocks, seven assists and five digs and Quanshell Scott and Ashley Mead both collected 10 kills, but Missouri State controlled play for much of the match, defeating 25th-ranked Middle Tennessee, 3-1, Sunday at Alumni Memorial Gym. The loss was the first of the season for the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee (10-1) hit just .199 for the match and had 31 attack errors. Freshman setter Alyssa King collected 53 assists and 19 digs, while senior Alicia Lemau'u had 14 dogs for the Blue Raiders. Missouri State (9-2) was led by Sara Thomas with 20 kills and Cara Hackmann with 10 kills and 14 digs. Jamie Adams also had 17 kills and Sara Staubach 12, as the Bears won their fourth match of the weekend after winning a tournament in Chattanooga on Friday and Saturday. "We didn't pass well in the match and it really wasn't that different from the rest of the weekend except it was a much stronger opponent," head coach Matt Peck said. "I think that loss is OK for our team. We need to refocus and regroup. We have things we need to work on and I think that has been made clear from [Sunday's] result." The first game set the tone for the match with 10 ties and four lead changes, but the Bears won eight of the last 10 points for a 30-24 victory and an early lead. Adams started with a pair of kills in the first seven points and Asberry had a kill of her own. Adams and Scott also combined for a block, but Missouri State won six of the next seven points for a 10-7 MSU advantage. A pair of Mead kills ended the Bears run and Adams added another kill. The teams traded points for the next 21 points, with Asberry posting two kills, Adams one and Kozon another. Scott also had two kills during the stretch, while Mead, Adams

and Kozon all tallied kills for a 22-all score. The Bears put together their winning run with kills from four different players, including the last two from Sara Thomas. Blue Raider Adams totaled seven kills on 14 total attacks in the game, but Missouri State had just four errors in 39 attempts. Missouri State used two big runs to take the second game 30-23. Blue Raider Alicia Lemau'u served an ace to start the game and Kozon and Mead followed with kills for an early 6-2 home team advantage. MSU called a timeout and answered with eight of the next 11 points, but an Adams kills tied the score at 10. Kozon, Adams and Asberry combined for a block, Scott posted a kill and Mead had two kills for a 17-15 Middle Tennessee lead, but the Bears again answered, scoring 10 of the next 12 points. Kozon had a kill and Adams and Scott combined for a block. Savannah Pegg and Scott kept the Blue Raiders in the game, but Sara Staubach's kill was the final point of MSU and a 2-0 Bears advantage. Middle Tennessee rebounded with a hardfought triumph in the third game, 30-26. The Blue Raiders won the first four points of the game on Ashley Waugh's serve, with Pegg getting a kill, Adams and Asberry combining for a block and a Waugh ace. The game was tight the rest of the way, with Middle Tennessee holding the lead for most of the game but never holding a lead of more than four points. Adams had four of the Blue Raiders final eight points, along with kills from Pegg and Asberry. Adams had seven kills in the game and Asberry three, as Middle Tennessee would not go away on its home floor. Missouri State won the first three points in the fourth game and trailed by no more than one point in the game. The Blue Raiders stayed close until MSU won seven of eight points for a 24-16 advantage. Mead had two kills, Adams added two kills and Adams and Asberry combined for a block, but a Thomas kill for the Bears set up the final point, 30-23. Middle Tennessee heads to the UConn Toyota Classic in Storrs, Conn, next weekend and will face Long Island, Hofstra and the host Huskies on Friday and Saturday.

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