

Threlkeld leads 5-4 championship win against Miss. State

Sophomore bags four goals, including winner

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Jen Threlkeld led an electrifying comeback and put together one of the best individual performances in school history to lead the Blue Raiders to the championship of the Middle Tennessee Classic with a 5-4 win against Mississippi State Sunday. Threlkeld's fourth goal of the match with 56 seconds remaining came from 50 yards out when she lofted a strong kick that just got over the head of Mississippi State keeper Stephanie Dallas and rolled into the center of the goal. The game-winner saved the Blue Raiders from blowing a two-goal lead in the final six minutes and allowing the visitors to tie the match 4-4 on a Jessica Davis goal in the 89th minute. Middle Tennessee (2-1-1) responded quickly and Threlkeld, fittingly, knocked in the winner to highlight a career-best



performance as the Blue Raiders won their Classic for the fourth time and improved to 8-0 in the event, while also running the win streak at Blue Raider Field to 23. "This win is such a great thing because it showed a lot of character on the part of our team to lose the lead twice and still find a way to fight back and win," Middle Tennessee coach Aston Rhoden said. "Jen was outstanding today and it is great to see her get so much action this early." Threlkeld tied the single-match record with four goals, including three in the second half, and the eight points tied for second on the single-game list. Kala Morgan, who is known for her prolific goal scoring, tied for third on the single-game list with three assists. Senior Holly Grogan continued to shine and etch her name in the Blue Raider history books. Grogan became Middle Tennessee's all-time leader in goals with the 34th of her career to tie

the match 2-2 in the 47th minute. She also tied Rebecca Rodriguez for the career points lead with 89, after also adding an assist in the match. Middle Tennessee jumped out to a 1-0 lead when Threlkeld headed in a beautiful pass from Morgan in the second minute, but Mississippi State would score two unanswered to take a 2-1 lead into the half. The Blue Raiders came out strong following the break and scored three straight goals to take a 4-2 advantage. Grogan tied the score 2-2 when she scored off a free kick, and Kathrine Andresen and Morgan teamed with Threlkeld to supply her third goal of the season and second of the match in the 58th minute. Grogan and Morgan served up a scoring opportunity that Threlkeld cashed in on in the 82 minute to put the Blue Raiders up 4-2, but the match was far from finished. The Bulldogs scored two goals in a 4:26 span to tie the score, 4-4, only to see Threlkeld deny the comeback with her well-placed winner. Middle Tennessee will play at Alabama Friday.

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