

## Blue Raiders Down Blackbirds 3-0

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**STORRS, Conn.** - Middle Tennessee held on for the 3-0 (30-27, 30-21, 32-34) win after Long Island forced extra points in game three to begin the UConn Toyota Classic on Friday night. In game three, the Blue Raiders (11-1) were up by one, 33-32, when a block by juniors Ashley Asberry and Ashley Adams sealed the match. Sophomore Ashley Mead led the Blue Raiders in the match as she posted 14 kills. Mead had a .379 attack percentage for the match. Adams also assisted Middle Tennessee as she recorded nine kills with a .353 hitting percentage. Adams also had three block assists in the match. "I don't think was one of our better matches. We have to run our system, be communicating, be positive and I know that is a challenge. It is a challenge in any sport," head coach Matt Peck said. "Our team can not relax." "A perfect example is the end of



the third game. LIU was playing a lot better, we had match point after match point and when we really needed a big block from anyone Ashley Asberry was there and put the ball straight down. I know our team is capable of doing that all the time and we can't just pick and choose when to use it," Peck said. In game three, Middle Tennessee took a five-point lead to begin the game, 10-5. The Blue Raiders continued to pull ahead allowing Long Island (6-5) to score just five points, 17-10. Long Island battled back to make it a three-point game, 20-17 but Middle Tennessee held on. The Blue Raiders scored two quick points. The first on a kill by Mead and the second on an ace by freshman

Izabela Kozon to extend the lead to six, 24-19. Long Island held on to tie the game at 29 and force extra points. The two teams traded points keeping the score knotted at 31 before the Blue Raiders took a one-point lead, 32-31. Middle Tennessee jumped out to a quick 8-3 lead to begin game two. The Blue Raiders continued to pull ahead taking a six-point lead 15-9 in the middle of the game. Long Island closed the lead to three, 20-17 but Middle continued to win points and keep the lead. The Blue Raiders took a five-point lead after a kill by Asberry, 25-20. A block by Mead sealed the win for the Blue Raiders, 30-21. Middle Tennessee ended the game by winning seven of the last eight points. Middle Tennessee won game one with the Blackbirds, 30-27 on an ace by sophomore Leslie Clark. After jumping out to a six-point lead, Middle Tennessee let Long Island back in the game by only winning two of the next eight points, 11-10 Blue Raiders. The Blue Raiders continued to battle taking a three-point lead 23-20. Long Island and Middle Tennessee traded points but Adams had a big kill to give the Blue Raiders a two-point lead late, 26-24. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Saturday at 9 a.m. when it faces Hofstra. Then at 6:30 p.m. the Blue Raiders will wrap-up the UConn Toyota Classic by playing host UConn. All of Middle Tennessee's games during the UConn Toyota Classic will be broadcast on [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

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