Blue Raiders Top UConn 3-1 for Tournament Title

Tournament MVP Adams recorded 25 kills in the win

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STORRS, Conn. - Middle Tennessee won the UConn Toyota Classic on Saturday after defeating tournament host Connecticut 3-1 (37-39, 30-23, 30-22, 30-19). Junior Ashley Adams posted 25 kills in the match with an attack percentage of .351. Adams' was one shy of her career high for kills which is 26. Three Blue Raiders (13-1)were named to the All-Tournament team with Adams being named Tournament MVP. Freshman Izabela Kozon and sophomore Ashley Asberry were also named to the team. Middle Tennessee has won all four tournaments it has competed in this season. Kozon and Asberry each recorded 15 kills in the match to add assistance on offense and combined for nine block assists. As a team Middle Tennessee had a hitting percentage of .302 with 75 total kills. The Blue Raiders also had 13 total blocks and 60 digs. "I think our team did a very nice job in the match that determined the champion of the tournament. We really played very well throughout the match," head coach Matt Peck said. "We passed really well today and I think that was the difference. When we got in our offense they weren't able to stop us." Sophomore Sasha McGlothin sealed the win for the Blue Raiders with her kill for the final point. McGlothin ended the game with seven kills for an attack percentage of .357. McGlothin also had seven block assists on the night, which is a new career high. "I think Sasha McGlothin stepped in a filled a role for us. Our senior middle blocker did not play today and Sasha stepped up and did an outstanding job that made

all the difference in the world," Peck said. UConn took a 3-1 lead to begin the match but the Blue Raiders closed the gap and took a 10-8 lead. Middle Tennessee held two-point lead, 20-18 as UConn continued to fight for points. The Huskies took a late lead but Middle Tennessee knotted the score at 26. Then UConn won two-points before the Blue Raiders answered and tied the score at 28. Middle Tennessee tied the score at 29 to force extra points and then took a 31-30 lead. The two teams continued to trade points before the Blue Raiders took a one-point lead, 35-34. The Huskies pulled ahead in the end taking a 39-37 win. Middle Tennessee had 10 service errors in game one, three of which were committed by freshman Izabela Kozon. "Actually I think we played a good game one except for having 10 service errors. We ended up with 17 service errors in the match and I really believe we would have won game one if it weren't for those errors," Peck said. The Blue Raiders began game two by winning the first four points and kept the four-point lead by winning four of the next six-points, 6-2. The Huskies battled back to make the score even before the Blue Raiders pulled away again taking a four-point lead, 18-14. Then Middle Tennessee held onto its four-point lead late while UConn threatened scoring two quick points to cut the lead in half, 24-21. Middle Tennessee held the Huskies to just two-points to end the game, 30-23 and tie the match at one. In game three, the two teams traded points back and forth before the Blue Raiders began to pull ahead with a five-point lead, 14-9. The Huskies tried to battle back but Middle Tennessee kept them at bay with a five-point lead, 20-15. The Blue Raiders won the last four-points of the game for the 30-22 win. Middle Tennessee had an attack percentage of .421 with 19 kills in game three while UConn had a hitting percentage of .139. The Blue Raiders continued the momentum from the previous two games into game four at it took a six-point lead, 9-3. Middle Tennessee held the Huskies to just two-points as it extended its lead to seven, 12-5. The Blue Raiders continued to pull ahead while keeping the Huskies from scoring. Middle Tennessee took a late nine-point lead, 19-10. Middle Tennessee extended its lead to 11 at the end of the game, 29-18. An archived copy of the Middle Tennessee vs. Hofstra broadcast will be available later in the week on www.goblueraiders.com. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Friday, Sept. 21 when it opens conference play at South Alabama. The Blue Raiders will play the Jags at 7:30 p.m. in Mobile, Ala. Then on Saturday, Middle Tennessee will travel up the road to play Troy at 7 p.m.

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