Blue Raiders Take 3-1 Win Over Indians

Mead leads team with 17 kills

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Arkansas State gave Middle Tennessee a tough match on Sunday but the Blue Raiders pulled through for the 3-1 (30-27, 24-30, 30-25, 30-20) win. Middle Tennessee dropped its first game in a conference match this season in game two against the Indians. The Blue Raiders lost the game 30-24 as each team recorded 18 kills. The two teams traded points to begin the match and continued to knot the score throughout the game before Arkansas State took a three-point lead, 25-22. After that point of the game Middle would score only three more points as the Indians tied the score at 1 to force a fourth game. In game four, the Blue Raiders jumped out to a huge 10-1 lead and continued to dominate leading 14-2 at one point. The Indians battled cutting the lead to six, 24-18; late in the game but the Middle held to the momentum holding Arkansas State to just two more points in the game to clinch the match with a 30-20 win. "I think we may have underestimated this team a little bit. I think we had a good game one and started to put them down and did then in game four did it again. We have a big lead on a team and then start to relax. I think that is going to be a big hurdle for us the rest of the year when you play teams who you think you are better than," head coach Matt Peck said. Sophomore Ashley Mead led the Blue Raiders on Sunday with her 17 kills. Juniors Ashley Asberry and Ashley Adams had 12 and 15 kills respectively to add assistance on offense. "I think we had a great performance from Ashley Mead today, who had an outstanding performance. Ashley Adams and Ashley Asberry put up big numbers today. We were without Ashley Waugh today and I think that hurt us a little bit. We had some different people going in but Alyssa did a great job going in, Katie and Laura Brock all did a great job going in," Peck said. "I think that is great to see and I just don't want our upperclassmen to be putting ourselves in this position. This is one thing we have to work on as we get close to the end of the year." Adams also posted a double-double on the day as she had 12 digs to help out on defense. Senior Alicia Lemau'u also recorded 12 digs in the match for Middle. Defensively, Asberry had three block assists to add

assistance on defense. Senior Quanshell Scott added three block assists of her own while Adams, freshman Izabela Kozon, sophomore Leslie Clark and Mead all had two block assists. To begin the match, Mead recorded five kills while Adams and Asberry each posted four of their own. As a team the Blue Raiders recorded 17 kills with a .289 attack percentage in game one. Clark ended the game with 47 assists as she added to the Blue Raiders success on offense. As a team, Middle Tennessee hit .336 for the match with 66 total kills and seven team blocks. Arkansas State and the Blue Raiders had the same number of team blocks but Middle posted six more kills than the Indians. Arkansas State ended the day with an attack percentage of .203. At the end of game three, Middle had an attack percentage of .352 with 51 kills. Mead led the team in kills with 14 and Asberry had three block assists. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Thursday, Oct. 11 when it travels to Boca Raton, Fla., to play Florida Atlantic at 6 p.m. The FAU match is the first of a six-match road stretch for the Blue Raiders who will not return to Alumni Memorial Gym until Oct. 26 when they face FAU in a rematch. The Oct. 26 match is the beginning of the end for the Blue Raiders who will not have to travel again until the Sun Belt Conference tournament on Nov. 15.

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