Middle Tennessee Tops FIU 3-1

Blue Raiders first in Sun Belt East Division

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Junior Ashley Adams knocked down 20 kills to lead the Blue Raiders over Florida International 3-1 (30-26, 27-30, 30-27, 30-27). With the win the Blue Raiders remain in first-place in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference with a 13-1 SBC record and 26-2 overall record. FIU falls to 9-5 in league play and 14-7 overall. "I was a little nervous. I know Florida International played a great match yesterday against Western. I think it is hard for teams taking this road trip for teams to play us and to play Western back to back," head coach Matt Peck said. "They gave us everything we could handle. I think that is the best match they have played us. There are not too many match we are going to win where we have ten reception errors and the other team out blocked us. We did what we needed to do at the time we needed to do it." Adams ended the match with just three errors for a .370 hitting percentage. Adams also added assistance on defense with ten digs and three block assists. "Ashley Adams was big this match in the front and the back row. She attacked very aggressively. She did a great job blocking," Peck said. "I think she has had a couple of down matches recently. UNO she didn't have a great match but she came back tonight and had a great match when we needed her to." Adams was assisted by junior Ashley Asberry who had 13 kills and six block assists. Both Ashleys combined for 33 kills out of our 59 and they really did their jobs. They did a great job of being good teammates on the floor." As a team, FIU out blocked Middle Tennessee 14 to 13 but the Blue Raiders posted a .259 hitting percentage compared to FIU's .181 hitting percentage. FIU did record more kills with 65 to Middle Tennessee's 59. Sophomore Leslie Clark added depth to the defense for Middle Tennessee with five block assists, one solo block and 13 digs. Clark also had 55 assists in the match. "I was concerned about this match. We didn't pass very well which is when we are going to struggle the most. After we

settled down a little bit, we switched out the libero from Ashley Waugh to Alicia, and we got in system a little bit more," Peck said. "In this match we had a number of big plays at crucial points in the match. We passed the ball over the net and Leslie stuff blocked their middle straight down on the floor by herself. We had a bunch of plays like that and Adams and Asberry were also involved in them and I think that made a difference in the match." Senior Quanshell Scott was second on the team in hitting percentage with .357 as she had six kills. Scott also had four block assists on the night. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Friday, Nov. 2 and Saturday Nov. 3 when it plays host to South Alabama and Troy at 7 p.m. Live broadcast and live stats of the match may be found on www.goblueraiders.com. Admission to all home volleyball matches is free.

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