Blue Raiders Ready for Rival Western Kentucky

Middle Tennessee's match Friday night will determine the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee will face off with Western Kentucky in a battle for the Sun Belt on Friday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Friday's match will be a rematch as the two teams met earlier this season with the Lady Toppers taking the match 3-0 in Bowling Green, Ky. The Blue Raiders are looking forward to the match as see it as a perfect way to end the regular season. "Obviously we want to play well this weekend. I think Western is going to play well. I think it will be an outstanding collegiate volleyball match and we are just really excited the regular season is ending like this right before the conference tournament. I think we could very well be in a position were we are playing Western again next Saturday in the conference championship," head coach Matt Peck said. "I would be really surprised if that were not the case. It's been a fun week for us. I know the girls are really focused on this match and know what happened at Western when we played. I think we have something to prove and hopefully that will show on the court when we step out on Friday." Middle Tennessee has spent this week preparing for its last match of the season with the Lady Toppers. "We took a day off Sunday and Monday just to get rested up since we had to back to back matches last weekend. We are just going though normal practice routines and it's a little easier this week since we just have one match to prepare for. We are mostly focusing on finding the things we do well," Peck said. "Working on a few things we think Western does well and trying to defend those. Mostly this is just us having a week, really the first time this season, to just work on some things in practice without having to travel or worry about two or three opponents." The winner of the match will receive the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament which will be held in Denver, Colo., Nov. 15-17. If Middle Tennessee wins the match it will be the East Division Sun Belt Conference Champion. If Western Kentucky wins the match the two schools will share the regular season title. "This has been a great week for us so far. I think we will have a great practice today. We had a great practice yesterday. Tomorrow we will take it a little easier and then Friday just have a pass and serve practice. Then we play the match for all the marbles going into the conference

tournament," Peck said. The match will begin at 7 p.m. in Alumni Memorial Gym on the campus of Middle Tennessee. Live video streaming 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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