Blue Raiders Place Second at MT Invitational

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee volleyball (2-5) placed second at the MT Invitational with a 2-3 (30-32, 31-29, 28-30, 15-30, 9-15) loss to Toledo (6-0) Saturday at Alumni Memorial Gym.

The Blue Raiders battled and won through games one and two. Toledo forced Middle Tennessee to extend games one and two before the Blue Raiders prevailed.

Toledo came back with a fury in the next three games, and though the Blue Raiders seemed to have the momentum in the third game, the pendulum swung in the Rockets favor and they pushed on for the win 30-28.

Game four was all Toledo, as the Rockets had a scorching .412 hitting percentage as opposed to the Blue Raiders ice cold .075. Middle Tennessee never seemed to recover from game three and dropped game five in quick order 15-9.

Senior KeKe Deckard continued to impress as she notched 29 kills and had a .250 hitting percentage. Sophomore Andressa Lyra was the only other Blue Raider who recorded double figure kills with 19.

Middle Tennessee suffered through a lack-luster game one and bounced back after dropping the first game, to defeat Austin Peay 3-1 (26, 30, 30-24, 30-24, 30-26) in the teams early game.

The Blue Raiders were led by senior KeKe Deckard who recorded 31 kills in the match, just four shy of the Middle Tennessee record of 35, which she set in 2001. She also had an impressive attack percentage at .481, committing only seven errors on 52 attacks. Fellow senior Dara McLean had 16 kills in the match.

Middle Tennessee ended the match with a .307 attack percentage and allowing Austin Peay a .175 attack percentage. The Blue Raiders still struggled with errors, as the team had 22 in the match.

Next on the agenda for the Blue Raiders is a trip to Oxford, Ohio and the Miami University of Ohio

Tournament. Middle Tennessee faces IFPW on Friday and Georgia Tech and Miami University Saturday.

All-Tournament

KeKe Deckard - Middle Tennessee

Andressa Lyra - Middle Tennessee

Ashley Genslak - Austin Peay

Rachel Mohler - Toledo

Corrie Magnus - Toledo

Kelsey Culver - Toledo (MVP)

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