Blue Raiders Continue Roll, Blank Arkansas State 9-0

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The 2004 Middle Tennessee soccer team, already the most productive offensive squad in the Sun Belt this season, became the most prolific in school history in another high-scoring affair at Blue Raider Field Sunday. The Blue Raiders (8-4, 2-1 SBC) continued to score at a record-setting pace in a 9-0 blanking of Sun Belt rival Arkansas State (4-9-0, 1-3-0) to improve to 6-0 at home and increase their home-field winning streak to eight games dating to last season. The nine goals give Middle Tennessee 51 for the season, besting the single-season mark of 47 set in 2001. The Blue Raiders also have 134 team points, also a new single-season mark, eclipsing the 128 in 2003. Freshman Holly Grogan and junior Claire Ward were the big offensive producers against the Lady Indians, each collecting their first career hat trick. Rebecca Rodriguez, Debs Brereton and Danielle LaDuke also provided goals for Middle Tennessee. "This was an important weekend for us against two conference rivals, and we were up for the challenge," Ward said. "We are playing well as a team and everyone is contributing. These were two big wins and get us going well in the Sun Belt race." Grogan poured in five goals in the two home conference games, including three against Arkansas State. It was Grogan who started the scoring in the 40th minute, and the Blue Raiders never looked back. "It was exciting to get the hat trick, but I'm more excited about us winning two conference games," Grogan said. "The most important thing is the success of our team but it does feel good to step in and contribute." Brereton also continued to pile up the points for Middle

Tennessee. The senior forward connected for her 12th goal and added two more assists, giving her 31 points for the season, and tying teammate Laura Miguez for most points in a single season. Brereton also is one goal shy of tying the Blue Raider single-season mark. In addition to Brereton's two assists, Jessica Northcutt had a pair, while Rachel Holmes and Lisa-Marie Woods each added one. The game was scoreless through the first 39:37, but the Blue Raider struck with a vengeance just before the intermission when they poured in three goals in a span of 2:50. Grogan connected on a header from seven yards out before Ward scored on a rip from inside the 18 just 1:09 later. Rebecca Rodrigez' third goal of the season in the 43rd minute sent the Blue Raiders into the half with a 3-0 lead. Middle Tennessee didn't let up at the start of the second half, scoring three goals in a 12-minute span to break the game open. The Blue Raiders will return to action when they travel to Denver Friday. **NOTES:** Middle Tennessee has outscored the opposition 38-2 at Blue Raider Field this season ... The Blue Raiders are 6-0 at home this season and have eight straight home wins dating to last season to tie the longest home-field winning streak in school history ... Debs Brereton is averaging one goal per game ... Brereton supplied three goals and five assists in the two home wins against Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State ... Freshman Holly Grogan connected for five goals in the two wins, while Claire Ward delivered four goals in the two games ... Middle Tennessee is averaging 4.5 goals per game ... Brereton's seven assists this season are No. 4 on the single-season list. Her 12 goals are tied for No. 3 in a single season, and her 31 points are tied for first in a single-season ... Ward and Grogan were named co-Alexander Automotive Family Offensive Players of the Game Sunday, while Sara Wohlhueter was voted the Defensive Player of the Game.

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