

September 13, 2008

Blue Raiders take Mavericks 3-1 Middle Tennessee will play Duke at 7 p.m.

MT Athletic Communications

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ARLINGTON, Texas - Middle Tennessee improved to 8-0 on the season after defeating tournament host UT-Arlington 3-1 on Saturday morning at the UT-Arlington Hilton Invitational.

The Blue Raiders were led by junior **Ashley Mead** who had 15 kills and senior **Ashley Asberry** with 13 kills.

Freshman **Lindsey Cheatham** also performed well as she was 12 for 14 with no attack errors for a .857 hitting percentage. Defensively, Cheatham had one solo block and four block assists.

Junior **Leslie Clark** had 51 assists with three service aces. Sophomore **Izabela Kozon** added 10 kills of her own.

As a team the Blue Raiders had 59 kills with a .316 hitting percentage and 11 team blocks.

To begin the first set, Middle Tennessee took a 15-6 lead over the Mavericks. The Blue Raiders won the set 26-16 after a block assist by Asberry and Oladinni.

Middle Tennessee trailed most of the second set and mid-way through was down 15-10 to the Mavericks. Late in the set, the Blue Raiders trailed 21-17. Middle Tennessee lost the set 25-18 after a service error by Elebute.

The Blue Raiders took their first lead since the second set 7-6 and traded points with UT-Arlington before pulling ahead 11-8. Clark had two straight service aces to help Middle Tennessee pull ahead 18-15. The Blue Raiders continued to pull ahead and took the set, 25-18, on a block assist by Asberry and Oladinni.

With a 2-1 match lead, Middle Tennessee and the Mavericks traded points to begin the fourth set before the Blue Raiders pulled ahead by four, 15-11. UT-Arlington closed the gap to one three times before the Blue Raiders took the match and the set, 25-21, on a block assists by Clark and Cheatham.

Middle Tennessee will be back in action later Saturday afternoon when it faces Duke at 7 p.m. in the last match of the UT-Arlington Hilton Invitational.



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