Blue Raiders snap losing streak

Top FIU 3-1

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee snapped a two-match losing streak on Friday night with a 3-1 (25-18, 23-25, 25-21, 25-17) win over Florida International. Junior Ashley Mead led the Blue Raiders at the net with 18 kills with assistance from sophomore Izabela Kozon who notched 17 of her own. Defensively, senior Ashley Asberry posted five blocks assists and one solo blocks. Freshman Stacy Oladinni also added assistance with one solo and four block assists of her own. "I was really happy to see us turn it around. We had a big match tonight and they contained Ashley Asberry very well. Iza and Ashley Mead stepped it up. Rosa has been Player of the Week three times this season and we had two players with more kills than her. I think that says something about our team," head coach Matt Peck said. Junior Ashley Waugh had 13 digs on the night as the team recorded 37. As a team the Blue Raiders had 57 kills while keeping the Golden Panthers to 41 and three-time SBC Player of the Week and NCAA kills per game leader Yarimar Rosa to 12 kills. Middle Tennessee also had 12 team blocks to FIU's four while posting an attack percentage of .328. The Blue Raiders remain undefeated at home (7-0) and improve to 11-3 on the season while FIU falls to 12-4 overall. Middle Tennessee began the match strong dominating the Golden Panthers leading by as much as eight points. The Blue Raiders continued to perform well and took the first set 25-18. In the second set, Middle Tennessee started strong but began to falter trailing 23-8 at one

point. Then the team rallied and closed the gap to one before FIU took the win and tied the match at 1 to force a fourth set. "In game two we got pretty complacent and that concerns me a lot. I yelled at the team and said I do not want another loss and this is our home gym and we are going to play this team tough," Peck said. The Blue Raiders regrouped and came out strong in the third set. FIU kept the score close but Middle Tennessee pulled out the 25-21 win to take a 2-1 lead in the match. In the fourth set, the Blue Raiders continued to play well taking a late five-point lead, 19-14. Middle Tennessee continued to dominate taking the set 25-17 on a kill by Mead. The Blue Raiders will be back in action at 7 p.m. on Saturday when they play host to Florida Atlantic. Admission to Alumni Memorial Gym is free. Live stats will be available on www.goblueraiders.com. The match will also be video streamed on www.goblueraiders.com.

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