Blue Raiders top ASU 3-1

Yancey notches career block assists

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JONESBORO, Ark. - Middle Tennessee lost the first set but learned its lessons early taking a 3-1 (23-25, 25-12, 25-22, 25-19) win over Arkansas on Friday night. The Blue Raiders (13-3, 3-1 SBC) led by senior Ashley Asberry recorded 60 kills for a .331 hitting percentage. Asberry ended the night with 19 kills, just one shy of her career high, for a .581 hitting percentage. Sophomore Izabela Kozon added assistance to the offense with 15 kills of her own as junior Ashley Mead added 12 more. Middle Tennessee held ASU to just 44 kills on the night for a .134 attack percentage. Asberry had four block assists and one solo block to add assistance to the defensive side of the ball. Junior Janay Yancey posted a career high five block assists on the night while freshman Stacy Oladinni had a career-tying four block assists. Also on defense, junior Ashley Waugh had 23 digs, just two shy of her career high, as the team had a total of 48 digs. Defensively, the Blue Raiders had 13 blocks and 57 assists as junior Leslie Clark had 55 on the night. ASU took an early lead 12-9 scoring four straight points and maintained the lead as the two teams continued to trade points. The Blue Raiders began to close the gap but ASU continued to win points taking a 22-19 lead. Middle Tennessee battled and after trailing 24-21 made it a one point game after a kill by Kozon but could not hold on to win dropping the set 25-23. The Blue Raiders and the Red Wolves traded points to begin the second set but then the Middle Tennessee began to pull ahead taking a five-point lead, 10-5. Middle Tennessee continued to perform well taking a 16-8 lead at the halfway mark. Middle Tennessee continued to dominate the set extending its lead to 10 and took the set 25-12 to tie it at one and force a fourth set. After two sets, Asberry and Kozon each had six kills in the match with Asberry adding to the defense with four

block assists and one solo block. As a team, Middle Tennessee had 25 kills, just one more than the Red Wolves with a .352 hitting percentage. ASU hit .100 with just three blocks while the Blue Raiders had 10 blocks and 25 digs. In the third set, the Blue Raiders scored six of the first seven points including an ace by junior Katie Brush. Then behind the serve of Kozon, the Blue Raiders scored seven points to take a 10-point lead, 13-3. ASU continued to fight and after trailing 20-13 closed the gap making it a three-point set, 23-20. The Blue Raiders held on taking the set 25-22 after a kill by Asberry. Asberry had 13 kills with a .619 hitting percentage after the third set. The two teams traded points to begin the fourth set with the Blue Raiders taking a four-point lead, 11-7 after a block by Yancey and Oladinni. Middle Tennessee led by five, 15-10 at the halfway mark. The Blue Raiders continued to play well leading 20-15 late it the set. ASU closed the gap but Clark notched the last kill of the set to take the match. The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. when it faces Arkansas-Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark.

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