Blue Raiders Defeat Alabama, 2-1

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders scored two first-half goals and hung on for a 2-1 victory over Alabama in soccer action Saturday afternoon at Lady Raider Soccer Field. The Blue Raiders got on the board first when Alabama's Dawn Battle fouled Megan McGregor in the box. MT's Lisa Langrish took the penalty kick and placed it in the lower right corner, past UA keeper Courtney Rogers for a 1-0 Blue Raider lead in the 29th minute. MT took a 2-0 advantage to halftime when midfielder Emily Carter received a pass from Lindsey Bopp and chipped a ball from just outside the 18-yard box over the head of Rogers for Carter's first goal of the campaign in the 39th minute. The visiting Crimson Tide came out after intermission determined to make it a match, attacking from the kickoff. Alabama finally cracked the scoreboard in the 68th minute when Katie French broke free along the left side and chipped a ball over MT goalie Emily Shrum's head, into the back of the net. Alabama continued firing at Shrum, who had seven saves in the match, but the sophomore was up for the challenge. The Crimson Tide outshot the Blue Raiders, 21-14, in the match, including 12-9 in the second half. Blue Raider Danielle LaDuke broke free just inside two minutes left in the match, but Rogers was able to knock the ball away. In the collision, LaDuke went down, causing a 35-minute delay. Rogers then went down on the ensuing MT corner kick, causing another five-minute delay before the final 1:48 could be played in the match. The Crimson Tide had one last chance on a corner kick, but the Blue Raiders were able to clear the ball away to preserve the victory. The Blue Raiders started six freshmen and three sophomores in the match, their first since September 8. MT hosts Eastern Illinois Sunday at Noon. The Panthers come into the match 4-1 after defeating DePaul Tuesday afternoon. EIU won its first three matches of the year before dropping a 2-0 decision to Eastern Michigan. The Panthers were scheduled to play in the Outrigger Invitational this weekend in Honolulu, Hawaii, but that trip was also canceled

late last week. Saturday's home matches began a five-game homestand for the Blue Raiders, including three matches next week. MT hosts Murray State on Tuesday, opens Sun Belt action against Florida International on Friday, and finishes the homestand with a Sunday meeting versus Lipscomb.

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