

Jones leads Blue Raider record offensive attack against Alabama A&M

Preseason All-Sun Belt pick nets four goals

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Shan Jones, the 2008 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year and 2009 Preseason All-Sun Belt selection, netted a school-record tying four goals as the Middle Tennessee soccer team dominated the offensive attack, setting a school standard in the process for single-game scores, with an 11-1 thumping of Alabama A&M Sunday afternoon at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

Jones, a native of Y Felinheli, Wales, registered the team's first two goals of the contest, before adding a pair early in the second half to match the single-game mark set twice by Rebecca Rodriguez and once by senior teammate Jen Threlkeld. Threlkeld was the last Blue Raider to reach the four-goal standard, doing so against Mississippi State Sept. 9, 2007.



She got the scoring started at 13:46 when Hope Suominen found Threlkeld near the midfield line, who then turned, sent a long through ball to a Jones, who then collected the pass and beat the last line of defense into the open net behind goalkeeper Whitney Jackson. Less than nine minutes later, Jones was tripped inside the 18-yard box resulting in a penalty kick. She placed the ball in between the pipes for her second goal of the campaign at 22:25.

Jones continued to push forward in the early moments of the second half, scoring both her third and fourth goals with less than two minutes passed. The opening goal of the second frame came just 13 seconds after halftime as she stole the ball near the right post and knocked it off replacement goalie

Brittany Christian at 45:13. Middle Tennessee's (2-0) Suominen was credited with the assist on Jones' final marker by sending a long through ball, setting up Jones for a one-on-one with Christian. Jones made one move to get around her and had the open net available for her final score at 46:30.

"I feel fantastic," Jones said. "I am glad we played well as a team, but also that I was able to play as well as I did. To score four goals is amazing."

The first half offensive flurry continued at 30:59 when sophomore Luisa Moscoso got on the scoreboard for the first time this season on a long through ball behind the defense played by freshman Allison Stallard. Blue Raider newcomers Paige Goeglein and Regina Thomas teamed for the next score as Thomas ripped a pass from Goeglein from 15-yards out to increase the margin to 4-0 at the 34:43 mark.

Goeglein then added a tally of her own to close the first half scoring on a shot to the upper left 90 from the top of the penalty box. Senior Sarah Beth Lee and Moscoso set up the fifth goal of the opening 45 minutes for the Blue Raiders.

After Jones' two goals early in the second half, she paired with Threlkeld to set up a score by freshman Whitney Jorgenson at 49:08. Jorgenson tallied the third goal of her young MT career and first of the match by gathering a Threlkeld pass and placing it out of the goalie's reach.

Less than two minutes later, another mark was added to the Blue Raider side of the scoreboard as Suominen found the head of Preseason All-Sun Belt honoree Fran Howells on a free kick cross from the right side at 50:54.

Alabama A&M (0-2) was able to manage its only goal of the contest when Brittan Thomas went around the defense after receiving a cross at the left post and beat Blue Raider goalkeeper Erynn Murray at 58:21.

Middle Tennessee, however, would not quit offensively and scored its final two goals in the last five minutes. Moscoso found sophomore Laura Lamberth, who then fired a hard shot from 20 yards to the upper right 90 at 85:19.

Lamberth then fed Threlkeld, who slid the ball underneath Christian at 87:59 from 15 yards out for the single-game school record 11th goal.

The 11 goals surpass the 10 the Blue Raiders had scored twice previously in their 14-year history. The last time MT reached the double-digit goal plateau was Sept. 15, 2006, vs. Lipscomb.

"It is always definitely good to win," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "Especially winning on your home field where our fans come out and expect to see us attack. I think we gave them that today."

Middle Tennessee dominated the team statistics as well, holding a 24-3 advantage on overall shots, 15-2 on shots on goal and 6-1 on corner kicks. The Blue Raiders found the back of the net on 45.8 percent of their shots during the afternoon.

The squad will next play a pair of games in Dayton, Ohio, beginning at 6 p.m. Central Friday at Wright State. A Noon Central Sunday start waits Middle Tennessee against Dayton before the team heads back to Murfreesboro. Both matches will be against first-time opponents.

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