

Middle Tennessee plays to 1-1 draw at Troy

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TROY, Ala. - Middle

Tennessee's three-game road swing to start Sun Belt

Conference play did not prove

to be a kind one as the Blue

Raiders return home next

weekend still searching for

their first league win after

playing to a 1-1 draw at Troy

Sunday. The Blue Raiders (6-

4-2, 0-1-2) played to a pair of

draws on the trip and suffered

one setback, but Sunday's tie

at Troy (4-6-1, 2-3-1) has to be

the most disappointing of the

three near wins that got away.

Just as in two previous Sun

Belt matches, Middle

Tennessee owned the lead in

the second half only to give it

up, but the Trojans snatched

victory in the waning minutes of regulation in the most painful manner. The Blue Raiders were just

minutes from their first SBC triumph when Lynn Rankin scored on a pass off a free kick in the 88th

minute to even the score 1-1 and force overtime. "Once again we just couldn't finish," Middle

Tennessee coach Aston Rhoden said. "We had plenty of opportunities and we just couldn't

capitalize. Their keeper (Laura Longard) made some good saves, but even some shots we had, we

just knocked them right into her hands. We had breakaways and couldn't finish. It was just very

disappointing." The game was scoreless at the half and Middle Tennessee finally broke through in

the 60th minute when Rachel Holmes scored off an assist from Caitlin Reeves to take the lead.

Middle Tennessee dominated the game everywhere except the scoreboard, collecting 33 shots. Of

those 33, 23 were on goal, including 17 in the second half alone. On the other hand, Middle

Tennessee allowed only 10 shots in the match, including two on goal; however one of those found

the back of the net. The Blue Raiders open the home portion of the Sun Belt slate when they play

host to Florida International Friday at 3:30 p.m.

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