Blue Raiders Turn Back FIU 3-1

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee volleyball held off a tenacious Florida International squad (10-9, 1-4 SBC) to win its fourth Sun Belt Conference match 3-1 (30-15, 30-24, 30-32, 30-24) and improve to 19-2 overall and 4-1 in the Sun Belt Sunday at Alumni Memorial Gym. The Blue Raiders exploded in the first game in their opening home Sun Belt match of the season. The squad committed just two errors and hit a scorching .406 and held FIU to a .000 attack percentage. Middle Tennessee watched the Panthers roar to life a bit in the second game, tying game two at 10, before the Blue Raiders pulled away. The Blue Raiders continued to hit well, with a .313 attack percentage and FIU improving to .149 In game three, Middle Tennessee looked like it would waltz through the final game and pick up its fourth Sun Belt victory. FIU had other plans. The Panthers opened the game with three straight points to take the early lead. The two teams traded points throughout most the game and thanks to 11 FIU service errors, Middle Tennessee stayed in the game. The Blue Raiders tied it at 30 all off a kill by Quanshell Scott but the team couldn't close the deal as FIU got two consecutive kills to take game three. Middle Tennessee seemed to re-focus in game four. The Blue Raiders hit above 400, .413, for the second game in the match to take the win. With just four errors, Middle Tennessee was assured the victory as Scott closed out the match with a kill. Andressa Lyra's 21 kills is the seventh time this season the junior has recorded 20 or more kills. She has also recorded double figure kills in all 21 matches the Blue Raiders have played. Freshman Ashley Adams had 16 kills in the match and Scott recorded 10. Junior setter Megan Sumrell had 52 assists in the win. Middle Tennessee continues its home stand next weekend as the Blue Raiders host North Texas on Friday and Denver on Sunday.

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