Singles split not enough to lift Middle Tennessee

Blue Raiders win two three-set matches in singles action

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team was able to split the six singles matches but the loss in the doubles point resulted in a 4-3 Troy win Saturday afternoon at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"We came out with not much enthusiasm today after yesterday's match," head coach Alison Ojeda said. "Instead of focusing on our opponent today, we sulked a little after what happened yesterday and that got the best of us."

The Trojans grabbed the early 1-0 lead after claiming triumphs in two of the three doubles contests. The Blue Raiders captured their lone win in the trio at the No. 3 position, as Anna Djananova and Taylor Coffey knocked off Rosaura Ramirez-Vega and Stephanie Vieira, 8-5.

Middle Tennessee (9-9) battled back to tie the match at 3-3 before Troy's Stephanie Vieira defeated Marietta Bigus in the No. 4 slot for the decisive point. With teammates and fans from both sides cheering for their respective player, Bigus forced a third set before eventually falling 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

The Blue Raiders' Djananova and Yuiri Nomoto also went the distance in their respective singles matches, both prevailing. Djananova captured a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win at No. 2 against the Trojans' Lauren Simpson, while Nomoto handed Ramirez-Vega a 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 setback at the No. 5 position.

Natalie Araya capped the three singles wins for MT, as she registered a 6-3, 6-4 win over Leonie Guijt of Troy (11-7) at the No. 3 spot.

"Both of our seniors came out and played tremendously well today, I am so proud of them. I wish today was Senior Day. Anna played through an injury and persevered greatly. Natalie played one of her best matches in awhile and it showed in her straight-set win. I could not be happier for them both as we wind down the season."

Middle Tennessee will conclude its regular season with a 3 p.m. Sunday match against rival Western Kentucky also at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. Prior to the match, Araya and Djananova will be honored as part of Senior Day festivities.

Troy 4, Middle Tennessee 3

Singles
No. 1 Karoline Grymel (TROY) def. Carla Nava (MT) 6-3, 6-3
No. 2 Anna Djananova (MT) def. Lauren Simpson (TROY) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2
No. 3 Natalie Araya (MT) def. Leonie Guijt (TROY) 6-3, 6-4
No. 4 Stephanie Vieira (TROY) def. Marietta Bigus (MT) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2
No. 5 Yuiri Nomoto (MT) def. Rosaura Ramirez-Vega (TROY) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3
No. 6 Emma Smith (TROY) def. Taylor Coffey (MT) 7-5, 6-4

Doubles
No. 1 Grymel/Guijt (TROY) def. Alex Dachos/Araya (MT) 8-3
No. 2 Simpson/Smith (TROY) def. Nava/Nomoto (MT) 8-4
No. 3 Coffey/Djananova (MT) def. Ramirez-Vega/Vieira (TROY) 8-5

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