First half goals down Blue Raiders Friday night

Thomas nets first MT goal of the season

August 27, 2010 · Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee surrendered a pair of goals less than three minutes apart early in the first half to drop a 2-1 home decision to visiting Wright State in non-conference soccer action Friday evening at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The Raiders from the north jumped out in front early as Brittany Persaud collected a loose ball just outside the 18-yard box on the left side and buried it behind Blue Raider keeper Rebecca Cushing from 20 yards out at 3:49 for a 1-0 advantage.

Wright State (1-2) would maintain the offensive pressure and netted its second goal in similar fashion. Amber Kasmer sent a right-side cross to Morgan Butler, who stood virtually untouched from 15 yards away and found the back of the net at 6:27 to put the visitors up, 2-0.

The host Blue Raiders, however, would not quit and quickly turned the tide in their favor and would play better the remainder of the game.

Middle Tennessee (0-2) was able to get on the scoreboard for the first time of the match, and the season, when Regina Thomas slipped past the WSU defense for a tally at 23:04. Senior All-Sun Belt selection Vanessa Mueggler found fellow preseason All-Sun Belt Team honoree, junior Shan Jones,

along the left flank. Jones then turned and sent a through ball in the middle of the field, which located a streaking Thomas. The redshirt sophomore raced passed the defense and found herself all alone in front of the open net for her sixth goal as a Blue Raider with an easy tap-in from six yards away.

Middle Tennessee maintained the offensive pressure in the second half, as sophomore Whitney Jorgenson and Mueggler nearly registered the equalizer on two occasions. First, Jorgenson sent a shot just off the crossbar with just over 19 minutes remaining. Then, Mueggler played a soft shot behind the defense, only to have it saved just off the line by goalie Brooke McCurdy with 13:36 left.

The Blue Raiders held a 14-10 shot advantage against the Raiders and a 7-to-4 edge on corner kicks; however, McCurdy stopped six saves to preserve the win for the visitors. Cushing gathered three saves in between the pipes for MT.

Jorgenson led all players with four shots, including three on goal, while Butler and Persaud each posted three to pace Wright State.

Middle Tennessee will return to action at 4 p.m. Sunday when it plays host to in-state foe Tennessee Tech. The game will serve as Fan Day for all Blue Raider fans.

Printed on May 24, 2013
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/47418