Volleyball falls to Auburn in five-set heartbreaker

Izabela Kozon records double-double with 21 kills and 10 digs

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - After winning a five-set affair in the afternoon, the Middle Tennessee volleyball team fell in similar fashion, 3-2 (26-24, 18-25, 25-18, 23-25, 10-15), Saturday evening against Auburn in the Blue Raider Bash at Alumni Memorial Gym. "I think we had a chance to win the match in four," said head coach Matt Peck. "I felt really good about it when we were leading 22-20 in that set, but a couple of mental errors caught up with us. We have to be able to work through that. It's a learning process for us this year. We showed flashes of being a very good team, but we just need to be more consistent. That said, it was a great atmosphere here tonight and a great match to watch, but we couldn't come up with the win." The Blue Raiders were led by senior Izabela Kozon with 21 kills and 10 digs. Alyssa Wistrick had her best offensive outing of the season with a 16 kill effort while hitting at a .452 clip. Morgan Peterson directed the offense for much of the night, tallying a match-high 34 assists. Defensively, Brynne Henderson recorded a match-high 16 digs. Lindsay Cheatham added two solo blocks and five block assists. Middle Tennessee won the opening set 26-24. The Blue Raiders maintained an early lead well into the match, but a Camila Jersonsky tied the opening stanza at 19 before taking a temporary lead at 23-22. After some back and forth play, MT would rally with back-to-back kills from Kozon and Stacy Oladinni to win. In the second set, Auburn raced out to an early 12-7 lead to force a Middle Tennessee timeout. Although the Blue Raiders would string together some minor runs, the Tigers led the rest of the way to win 25-18. Middle Tennessee came out of the break and never trailed to win the third set 25-18. Kozon impressed throughout, notching eight kills in the frame. Auburn would rally to tie the match at 2-2 with a hard-fought 25-23 win in the fourth set. The Tigers took hold of the fifth and final set with a run keyed by Sarah Bullock. The sophomore held serve for four consecutive points to take an 8-3 over the Blue Raiders. Auburn managed to maintain the margin down the stretch, winning 15-10. Middle Tennessee (3-3) will finish their play at the Blue Raider Bash Sunday afternoon at 1 PM against Miami (Fla.) at Alumni Memorial Gym.

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