Volleyball wins over Arkansas, 3-1

Three Blue Raiders tally double-digit kills

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Blue Raider volleyball team successfully opened the Middle Tennessee Invitational on Friday night with a 3-1 (20-25, 25-18, 25-20, 25-15) victory over SEC opponent Arkansas. "It was great to see us take back control after losing the first set," said head coach Matt Peck. "I think we had a great match from Stacy and Ashley. They were both huge tonight with very timely kills and blocks. The team played a good match, and we took a big win against a regional opponent." The Blue Raiders (5-4) were led by the three-headed attack of Izabela Kozon, Stacy Oladinni and Ashley Adams. Kozon tied with Adams for the team lead in kills with 12, and Oladinni supplied 11 of her own at an outstanding .500 clip. Defensively, Brynne Henderson recorded the match high in digs with 13. Kozon also tallied 12 for her fifth consecutive double-double, a streak that began in last week's Blue Raider Bash. At the net, Oladinni notched a solo block to go along with four block assists. The Blue Raiders dropped the first set on the heels of an impressive late run by the Razorbacks. After Middle Tennessee scored three consecutive points to take an 18-15 edge, Arkansas reeled off the next nine to grab a commanding 24-19 lead, winning 25-20. Ashley Adams and Izabela Kozon helped the Blue Raiders even the score with a 25-18 second set victory. Each totaled four kills in the frame, which also featured five Arkansas service errors. After inching out to a 14-12 lead, MT utilized a four-point run, spearheaded by the serving of Halie Vannoy, to grab a 17-12 advantage. The Razorbacks never seriously threatened down the stretch, sending the Blue Raiders into the break tied at 1-1. Middle Tennessee took home the third set, winning 25-20. Stacy Oladinni caught fire with five kills on just five attempts along with a solo block and a block assist in the frame. The Blue Raiders turned an early edge into a 12-5 lead after recording five consecutive points, but the Razorbacks fought back with a five point run of their own to cut the deficit back to two at 12-10. MT regained a five point advantage moments later at 18-13 after taking five of six points, and ultimately hanging on to grab a 2-1 match lead. The Blue Raiders opened the fourth set by taking a commanding 10-1 lead, running away to win in impressive fashion, 25-15. Adams and Lindsay Cheatham led the way with five and four kills, respectively. The Middle Tennessee Invitational will continue play on Saturday, pitting the Blue Raiders against UAB at 10:30 AM and Albany at 5:00 PM.

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