Mueggler scores twice, including game winner in double OT

Blue Raider senior leads team with seven goals

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Senior All-Sun Belt honoree Vanessa Mueggler continued to add to her team-leading goal scoring total by netting both Middle Tennessee goals in the Blue Raiders' 2-1 double overtime win Sunday afternoon against North Texas at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Mueggler, who tallied a career-best 10 goals last fall, continues her pace to top the mark with her sixth and seventh of this season against the Mean Green. Her game winner came just under two minutes into the second extra period, giving Middle Tennessee (4-7, 1-1 Sun Belt) its first league win of the campaign and just the second at home during the 2010 season. Both home wins have been 2-1 double overtime thrillers.

The game winner was set up when junior Laura Lamberth took an initial shot from 25 yards out, deflecting off a North Texas (5-5-1, 0-2 Sun Belt) defender past the end line for a corner kick. Sophomore Whitney Jorgenson then sent the ensuing corner kick into the six-yard box, where Mueggler, standing at the near post, redirected it with her right foot into the open net at 101:54 for her second game winner this season and fourth of her career.

The Blue Raiders battled through a hard-fought game, resulting in a red card to MT's Shan Jones in the 52nd minute and played the final 50 minutes without her services.

Middle Tennessee, however, did not let the Mean Green man advantage keep it from scoring, as Mueggler found the back of the net for her first goal at 59:28. Redshirt freshman Regina Thomas sprinted past the North Texas left-side defense, but as she was challenged by a charging goalie Mandy Hall, she fed the ball to Mueggler for an easy tap-in along the goal line.

Jones' card came just 25 seconds after the Mean Green had taken a 1-0 lead. Following a Blue Raider foul just outside the 18-yard box, Kelsey Perlman sent the free kick into the back of the net around the wall for the game's first score at 51:02.

The sides would not remain uneven for long, however, as North Texas' Kelsey Hodges was given a red card with 15 minutes to play in regulation for a incident inside the box. The remaining 27 minutes, including overtime, were played 10-on-10.

Middle Tennessee dominated much of the action from the opening kickoff, holding a 10-to-2 shot edge at halftime and finishing with an 18-to-8 edge. The Blue Raiders had several chances go just high, wide or saved by Hall. Junior Luisa Moscoso slipped past the Mean Green defense during the first half for an opportunity but was denied, while Thomas nearly ended the game twice for Middle Tennessee in the first overtime, but Hall cut down the angle on both attempts.

Mueggler led all players with six shots, including five on goal. Ellen Scarfone paced North Texas with four attempts at the net.

Hall finished with 10 saves, while Rebecca Cushing stopped two Mean Green shots as the Blue Raider goalkeeper.

Mueggler has factored into the last four Middle Tennessee goals against North Texas, scoring the last three, including the lone tally in the 2009 Sun Belt Tournament match, while assisting on the team's score during the 2008 regular-season contest.

The Blue Raiders will return to action at 4 p.m. Friday when they hit the road for Jonesboro, Ark., to face Arkansas State in the first of four consecutive road Sun Belt matches.

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