Blue Raiders Drop 1-0 Decision

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Homestanding Western Kentucky scored a goal in the 69th minute to defeat Middle Tennessee, 1-0, in a hard-fought, physical soccer match Friday evening. The two teams played to a scoreless first half, but both squads had a couple of good scoring opportunities. WKU had a shot hit the crossbar in the10th minute and another one hit the left post in the 17th minute. The Blue Raiders' Laura Miguez had a good scoring chance in the 20th minute, but Lady Topper goalie Amy Uhlman tackled Miguez in the box. MT also had its only corner in the 43rd minute, with Emily Carter heading the Miguez cross toward an empty net, but WKU cleared the ball before it crossed the goal line. The Blue Raiders had several chances in the opening minutes of the second half, but were unable to find the back of the net. Lisa Langrish had a shot on a loose ball in the 48th minute, but missed just to the left. Jenny Cox had a header that hit the crossbar in the 55th minute, but again the Lady Toppers cleared the ball. WKU had a scoring opportunity in the 65th minute on a Kelly Frericks header, but MT goalie Emily Shrum made her fourth save of the match. Cox had another header that went just wide right on a restart in the 67th minute. The Lady Toppers broke through for the first goal in the 69th minute when Frericks beat Shrum low and left from about 10 yards out for a 1-0 WKU advantage. LaDuke had a one-on-one chance in the 75th minute, but Uhlman made the save to prevent a tying score. Cox's shot from about 30 yards out went just wide right in the 82nd minute, and the Blue Raiders last chance came after a corner created a scramble in front in the 88th minute, but another WKU clear secured the victory for the Lady Toppers. Middle Tennessee outshot the Lady Toppers, 15-6, in the second half, and 19-14 for the match. Uhlman had seven saves in the second half for WKU and nine in the contest, while Shrum made two saves in each half for the Blue Raiders. The Blue Raiders host Belmont Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Blue Raider Soccer Field on Senior Day. MT also hosts Georgia State at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the final home match of the season for the Blue Raiders.

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