Volleyball sweeps South Alabama to extend winning streak

Blue Raiders tie school record with 14th consecutive win

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MOBILE, Ala. - The Middle Tennessee volleyball team notched their school record-tying 14th consecutive win on Sunday, sweeping South Alabama 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-18) at Jag Gym in Mobile, Ala. "It's always difficult to play here, especially after driving down yesterday," head coach Matt Peck said. "I don't think we were playing our best volleyball and South Alabama is much improved from last year, but we did what we had to do to win the match. It was a great performance by Maria and Sasha, and both helped us win this match in three." The Blue Raiders (17-4, 8-0 SBC) were led by Maria Szivos on the day with a match-high 10 kills at a scorching .643 clip and four service aces. After missing the majority of the last two years and much of this season, Sasha McGlothin recorded 8 kills at a .667 rate. Izabela Kozon and Ashley Adams each notched seven kills, and the Blue Raiders as a team outhit USA .321 to .078. Defensively, Szivos and McGlothin also starred at the net, tallying five and four block assists, respectively. Brynne Henderson collected a match-high 10 digs. Propelled by six kills from Kozon, the Blue Raiders won the first set in wire-to-wire fashion, 25-19. Early on, Middle Tennessee couldn't create much separation from South Alabama, but eventually ran off seven straight points to take an insurmountable 19-11 advantage. The Jaguars tried for a late comeback bid, but Kozon notched the final three MT points to take a 1-0 lead. For the 11th consecutive match the Blue Raiders grabbed a 2-0 match lead, taking home the second set, 25-19. Szivos led Middle Tennessee in the frame with three kills and a pair of service aces. MT and USA battled back and forth early, but

utilized a six-point run to take a 20-13 lead, putting the set out of reach for the Jaguars. As a team, the Blue Raiders outhit South Alabama outhit .400 to .125. Middle Tennessee secured their fourth consecutive sweep with a 25-18 third set victory. USA opened up with a 4-7 edge, but MT recorded 14 of the next 16 points to take an 18-9 lead, and the Jaguars wouldn't pull any closer than five down the stretch. Szivos once again starred for the Blue Raiders in the frame with three kills and two service aces. Middle Tennessee will now prepare for a trip to Florida next weekend to take on defending Sun Belt regular season champion FIU and Florida Atlantic. The Blue Raiders won over both schools earlier this season at Alumni Memorial Gym.

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