Middle Tennessee soccer at home for first time in three weeks

Blue Raiders to recognize Fight for Pink month

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee soccer team will make its first appearances at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium in three weeks when it plays host to Louisiana and ULM at 7 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Sunday, respectively. The Blue Raiders recently concluded a four-game road trip.

"It has been tough being on the road for the last four games," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "It will be good to be back in front of our home fans. We are facing two strong opponents and we will have to play our best to be successful."

Middle Tennessee won three out of the four road matches to improve its record to 7-8 overall and 4-2 in Sun Belt action. The Blue Raiders capped the set with a 3-1 win at FIU, who was previously unbeaten in league play this fall.

Senior Vanessa Mueggler garnered her first career Sun Belt Player of the Week honor after netting a pair of goals at FIU, vaulting her into the conference lead with a career-best tying 10. She ranks tied for 17th nationally in goals scored as one of just 25 players to reach double-figures through Sunday's action. She also is tops in the league with 25 points, setting a new career high in the process.

The final goal Sunday was scored by freshman Jessika Oseguera, her first as a collegiate player.

Sophomore Whitney Jorgenson ranks behind Mueggler on the team leaderboard with four goals, one shy of her career best set last fall.

Junior Rebecca Cushing continues to play well in the cage, surrendering a goal or less in seven consecutive matches, dating back to Sept. 19. Included in the run was a 2-0 shutout at Arkansas State Oct. 1 to begin the most recent four-game road swing.

Louisiana enters the weekend with an 8-7, 3-3 ledger under the direction of head coach Scot Wieland. The Ragin' Cajuns swept through last weekend's conference action. Chelsea Balestra tops the squad with six goals and 13 points, while Kelli Jestes adds four goals and 10 points to the attack. Amanda Moorefield has played the majority of the minutes in between the pipes and has a 1.16 goals-against average thus far.

Stacy Lamb's ULM squad is currently 2-12-1, 0-6 as it hits the road for weekend action, beginning Friday at Western Kentucky. The Warhawks, who have dropped their last six matches, are led by four goals from Samantha Cashman, while Tiffany Bombard has contributed three to give the pair one-half of the team's total. Alex Holland has been in net for the entire season, posting a 2.34 goals-against average entering the weekend.

The weekend will serve as the kickoff of the soccer team's support of Fight for Pink to raise awareness for breast cancer research. The Middle Tennessee sports marketing staff and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be on-hand to sell pink and blue t-shirts for $10 and Fight for Pink bracelets for $2. The Fight for Pink festivities will be a part of each of the remaining four home matches during October.

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