Blue Raider offense assists in shutout over Ragin' Cajuns

Jorgenson, Mueggler top previous career highs for goals

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee netted four first-half goals and never looked back in knocking off Louisiana 4-0 Friday evening in Sun Belt women's soccer action at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The win was the Blue Raiders' second-straight and fifth in their last six games, despite being at home for the first time since Sept. 26.

Junior Rebecca Cushing again led the Middle Tennessee (8-8, 5-2 Sun Belt) defense, picking up three saves in playing the first 75:53 before giving way for the remainder of the game to freshman Lindsey Sisco, who was seeing action for just the second time as a collegian. The Blue Raider defense held its eighth-straight opponent to a goal or less and the two goalkeepers combined for the team's third shutout of the campaign and second in league play.

Offensively, sophomore Whitney Jorgenson netted the first two goals to eclipse her previous career high of five set last fall. She tallied her first score at 12:19 when senior Vanessa Mueggler sent a through ball to her on the left side, then after dribbling for a few steps, slipped it low behind the Ragin' Cajuns' charging goalkeeper Amanda Moorefield for a 1-0 MT lead. The goal proved to be the game winner, moving Jorgenson into a team lead with Mueggler with three.

The Olathe, Kan., native was not done, however, as she posted her career-best goal at 26:52. Classmate and defender Allison Stallard sent a long serve near the top of the six-yard box, which found the feet of a sliding Jorgenson, who pushed it between the pipes to push the edge to 2-0.

Mueggler, the reigning Sun Belt Player of the Week and leading goal scorer in the conference, added to her total later in the half. After a loose ball was played between junior Shan Jones and redshirt sophomore Regina Thomas at the top of the 18-yard box, the pair connected on passes back to Mueggler, who then fired home her attempt from 35 yards away and placed it just under the crossbar to give the Blue Raiders a 3-0 advantage at 35:04.

Mueggler's goal also set a career high, giving the All-Sun Belt honoree 11 on the season, eclipsing her previous total of 10 set last fall.

Thomas decided to take things into her own hands just over a minute later to close the scoring. She beat a Louisiana (8-8, 3-4 Sun Belt) defender along the right flank and as she closed in on the 18-yard box, she sent a shot just inside the far post to increase the margin to four at 36:29.

The Blue Raiders controlled much of the action and outshot the Ragin' Cajuns, 14-8, and held a 7-0 edge on corner kicks.

Mueggler led all players with six shots, while Tess Voisard paced Louisiana with two attempts. Cushing and Sisco had a combined four saves, three of which were collected by the Middle Tennessee starter. Moorefield also had three stops before Lauren Berlingo played the second half.

The Blue Raiders will return to action at 1 p.m. Sunday when they play host to ULM. The game will also serve as one of Middle Tennessee's Fight for Pink matches, as it raises breast cancer awareness throughout the entire month.

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