Middle Tennessee prepares for final road match

Blue Raiders to face South Alabama Thursday

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee soccer team will travel to Mobile, Ala., Thursday for its final road match of the season, a 7 p.m. start at South Alabama.

"We are coming off a good weekend at home and now we're going back on the road," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "South Alabama is a team that has played really well at home. We have to hope we continue to play well to get a good result."

The Blue Raiders earned a pair of 4-0 shutouts at home over the weekend, knocking off Louisiana and ULM at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium. Junior Rebecca Cushing played the majority of the minutes in net, leading the way to the two blank sheets. Freshman Lindsey Sisco stepped onto the field for the final 14:07 of Friday's triumph over the Ragin' Cajuns, her second career playing time.

Sophomore Whitney Jorgenson led the team with three goals, raising her season total to a career-high seven. She netted the game winner in both contests, including scoring just 11 seconds into the ULM match for one of the fastest goals in program history.

Senior Vanessa Mueggler, last week's Sun Belt Player of the Week, also set a new career best for goals with her tally against Louisiana. The league's top scorer added one to her season total to give

her 11 during the campaign, eclipsing her previous high by one.

The two wins moved Middle Tennessee's overall record to 9-8 and 6-2 in the Sun Belt. The Blue Raiders own a winning record for the first time this fall, as they have played against arguably the toughest schedule in program history.

The 6-2 league mark puts Middle Tennessee in a three-way tie with North Texas and Western Kentucky for second place in the conference standings. However, the Blue Raiders have the early advantage on the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament by virtue of tiebreakers with three regular-season matches left to play.

South Alabama brings a 4-12-1 overall and 2-6 SBC ledger into Thursday's meeting. The Lady Jags are coached by Mike Varga, who is in his 12th season at the helm. Kristyn Thacker and Kasey Crowe both top the squad with five goals apiece, while Linsey Snavely has seven assists to pace USA.

Middle Tennessee will return home after the game for a 1 p.m. Sunday tilt with Troy. The Blue Raiders then conclude the regular season with Senior Night at 7 p.m. Friday, October 29, against Western Kentucky.

Both home matches MT will continue to raise awareness for breast cancer research. Online donations to the Side-Out Foundation are still being accepted here.

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