

Volleyball wins third straight with 3-0 win over UL-Lafayette

Blue Raiders reach 20-win plateau for fifth consecutive season

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team notched their third consecutive victory with a 3-0 (25-21, 25- 18, 25-17) decision over UL-Lafayette on Saturday evening at Alumni Memorial Gym. The Blue Raiders have now won 17 of their last 18 matches, and sit in first place in the Sun Belt East division with an 11-1 conference record. Overall, Middle Tennessee improved to 20-5, marking the fifth consecutive year that the program has posted 20 or more victories in a season. "It's always nice to get that 20th win," head coach Matt Peck said. "Lafayette challenged us tonight, which I expected. They made us work for it, and I appreciate that because our team needed it. It's nice to know we can win when we have an off night, but we have to do better against Georgia Tech next week." For



the second night in a row, the Blue Raiders were led offensively by Ashley Adams with a team-high 11 kills at a .333 rate. Brandi Waller was second on the team with eight, and Maria Szivos tallied seven. As a team, MT outhit UL-Lafayette .313 to .142. Angela Peyton put up the team-high in assists with 24, and recorded a pair of service aces as well. Brynne Henderson anchored the defense with 13 digs. Peyton and Kendall Howard were tied for second in the category with eight apiece. Szivos and Lindsay Cheatham each posted three block assists, and the team out-blocked the Ragin' Cajuns 6.0 to 4.5. The Blue Raiders mounted an impressive comeback to win the first set,

25-21. ULL grabbed an early lead and extended it out to six at 17-11, but MT would respond by recording seven of the next eight points to tie things up at 18. After trading scores for a bit, Middle Tennessee scored the final three points, culminating with a Szivos and Sasha McGlothin block. Both Cheatham and Szivos tallied four kills in the second set, and the Blue Raiders won 25-18. The Ragin' Cajuns opened with an early 1-2 edge, but Middle Tennessee scored the following six points, and would hold on to the lead throughout to send UL-Lafayette into the break down 0-2. The Blue Raiders posted a 25-17 wire-to-wire victory in the third set. After going down 1-6 early, the Ragin' Cajuns would cut the deficit to one on four occasions, but couldn't draw even. ULL closed in at 11-10, but MT ran off five of the next six scores to extend the lead to five at 16-11 and weren't seriously challenged down the stretch. Adams posted five kills in the frame, and both McGlothin and Waller recorded four as Middle Tennessee outhit UL-Lafayette .341 to .163. Next week, Middle Tennessee will hit the road for a non-conference match Tuesday at ACC foe Georgia Tech before returning to Sun Belt action next weekend at North Texas.

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