

Singles comeback puts Middle Tennessee on top

Blue Raiders clinch match with a three-set win

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HIXSON, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team responded after dropping the doubles point to pick up five singles wins among the six matches en route to a hard-fought 5-2 victory at Chattanooga Friday evening at the Hixson Racquet Club in Hixson, Tenn. "What a display of grit and determination by our team," head coach Melissa Schaub. "For such a young group of girls to pull it off tonight and never quitting says a lot about this group. I could not be more proud of the effort they showed. Tonight was a step in our progress to become a better team." The Lady Mocs jumped out to a 1-0 lead after doubles play when they earned wins in two of the three matches. The lone Blue Raider victory came at the No. 1 position as Carla Nava and Yuiiri Nomoto handed Alexa Flynn and Emily Hangstefer an 8-4 setback. Middle Tennessee (2-0) then countered by winning the first



five singles meetings to clinch the match victory. Junior Marietta Bigus started the rally with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph at the No. 2 position over Hangstefer. Taylor Coffey then registered a 6-3, 7-6 decision over Grace Robinette during the No. 6 matchup to put the Blue Raiders ahead by one. Newcomer Lexi Brand garnered her first MT singles victory next, picking up a 7-5, 6-2 win against Shaina Singh at the No. 4 slot. The Blue Raiders then clinched the match as Yuiiri Nomoto battled in a back-and-forth affair with Jenna Nurik of Chattanooga (1-1) at the No. 1 position. Nomoto won the first set, lost the second then responded with a hard-fought win during the third to seal the triumph by a 6-3, 1-6,

6-3 score. Carla Nava tacked on the final Middle Tennessee singles triumph, knocking off Flynn during another three-set decision. Nava dropped the first set but answered by winning the next two for a 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory at the No. 3 spot and extending the Blue Raider final score. Middle Tennessee will return to action when it opens its home schedule at 1 p.m. Sunday by playing host to UT-Martin. The match will take place at the Nashboro Village Indoor Courts in Nashville, Tenn. The Blue Raiders also have rearranged their upcoming match with Vanderbilt. The two teams were scheduled to face each other Tuesday but due to an open weekend coming up, the match has now been rescheduled for Noon Sunday, Feb. 20, in Nashville. **Middle Tennessee 5, Chattanooga 2 Singles**

No. 1 Yuiiri Nomoto (MT) def. Jenna Nurik (UTC) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 No. 2 Marietta Bigus (MT) def. Emily Hangstefer (UTC) 6-2, 6-3 No. 3 Carla Nava (MT) def. Alexa Flynn (UTC) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 No. 4 Lexi Brand (MT) def. Shaina Singh (UTC) 7-5, 6-2 No. 5 Charlotte Bossy (UTC) def. Alex Dachos (MT) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 No. 6 Taylor Coffey (MT) def. Grace Robinette (UTC) 6-3, 7-6 *Doubles*

No. 1 Nava/Nomoto (MT) def. Flynn/Hangstefer (UTC) 8-4 No. 2 Nurik/Singh (UTC) def. Bigus/Brand (MT) 8-3 No. 3 Annie Green/Robinette (UTC) def. Coffey/Dachos (MT) 8-2

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