Back to the courts Saturday for Middle Tennessee women's tennis

Blue Raiders continue longest homestand since 2000

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The longest homestand since 2000 continues for the Middle Tennessee women's tennis team when the Blue Raiders play host to UALR at 10 a.m. Saturday at the on-campus Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

"Everyone is anxious to get back on the courts this weekend," said head coach Melissa Schaub. "We need to continue to fight each time out, give it our all and believe we can do it. If that happens, good things will happen for us."

Middle Tennessee looks to halt a four-match losing streak, three of which have come against nationally-ranked opponents. Despite the setbacks, the Blue Raiders boast winning records at the No. 1 and 6 singles positions and are just under .500 at the No. 2 and 3 slots.

In doubles, MT is also has a winning mark at No. 2, while falling just short of an even record at the No. 1 position.

UALR enters the contest having won its last eight contests after dropping a decision at Kansas Feb. 20. The Trojans, under the direction of head coach Abby Wilson, swept a three-match homestand last week in tilts against Murray State, Alcorn State and Harding, but are just 2-5 away from Little Rock.

The Blue Raiders own a 13-6 lead in the all-time series, dating back to the first match April 1, 1989.

Middle Tennessee has earned a win the last five teams the two schools have met, including a 4-0 triumph in last year's Sun Belt Tournament. Admission to the match is free and live stats will be available through GoBlueRaiders.com.

Getting to know...Lisa Maas

1. How did you first hear about Middle Tennessee? Coach Schaub emailed me after she watched my practice video on YouTube. Then one of my friends who played tennis in Kentucky knew about MT and recommended it.

2. Did you ever envision coming to the US to play college tennis? Actually, I wanted to study in Germany, but I decided that I wanted to come to the states and do both (play tennis and study), and this is not possible in Germany.

3. What is your major? I am majoring in exercise science because I want to work in the prevention and health field. Also, the program here at MT is very good.

4. What do you want to do after graduation? I think I want to go to grad school and get my master's degree, perhaps in health and prevention.

5. Have you found a place on campus to study when you cannot study in your room? Yes, I go to the library or the (Student-Athlete) Enhancement Center. But I much prefer being able to study in my apartment.

6. Other than tennis, what is your favorite sport? I love playing soccer. My little brother plays soccer and I used to play with him for fun.

7. Where in Germany are you from? From the north coast, near Bremen.

8. What are the main differences between Murfreesboro and your hometown? My hometown is smaller than Murfreesboro. And I really miss the food. The climate is different. It is colder and windier in Germany.

9. What do you consider to be the strength of your game and what do you feel like you can improve on? My strength is that I move really well on the court and I am always concentrating and trying to focus on every single point. I fight hard and never give up. I need to work on my consistency and it has gotten really better since I got here because I practice it every day. I want to become more consistent and also improve mentally and be more relaxed on the court.

10. What type of music do you listen to in order to get motivated before a match? I like to listen to fast, pop or rock music in order to get motivated.

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