Middle Tennessee stops skid by beating Trojans

Blue Raiders capture double point, four singles wins

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team put an end to its four-match losing streak with a 5-2 victory Saturday against UALR at the on-campus Buck Bouldin Tennis Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"It feels good to get a win, but we cannot and will not settle because it is just one," said head coach Melissa Schaub. "We have to take what we did best today, improve on it and get ready for the next match. Each time out we have to put forth our best effort. I am proud of how the team handled itself today."

The Blue Raiders started off by earning the doubles point to claim a 1-0 edge. Juniors Alex Dachos and Carla Nava opened with an 8-3 triumph at the No. 3 position against Nathalia Garay and Rachel Pierce. The point then fell in the favor of Middle Tennessee (5-5) when freshman Lisa Maas and sophomore Yuiri Nomoto handed Yana Kakovkina and Viktoriya Pluyta an 8-6 setback during the No. 1 meeting.

Junior Marietta Bigus and sophomore Lexi Brand put up a valiant effort in the No. 2 match against Veronique Luksich and Rebecca Van Den Houte, as the two tandems went to a tiebreaker at 7-7 before the UALR (10-7) pair pulled out the 8-7 win.

The Blue Raiders then captured four singles victories among the six matchups to decide the final

outcome. Nomoto put Middle Tennessee ahead 2-0 with a 6-3, 6-1 triumph at the No. 1 slot against Kakovina, before Van Den Houte cut the deficit in half with her victory at No. 4.

Brand and Nava then decided the match for the Blue Raiders with back-to-back wins. Brand handed Garay a 6-4, 6-1 loss at the No. 5 position, while Nava's 6-2, 6-3 triumph against Pluyta in the No. 3 slot clinched the team victory.

UALR tallied its final point with a No. 2 singles win before Dachos registered a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Pierce at the No. 6 position.

The Middle Tennessee victory over the Trojans is its sixth straight in the series.

The Blue Raiders, in the midst of an eight-match homestand, the longest since 2000, will return to action when they play host to Arkansas State at 1 p.m. Friday.

Middle Tennessee 5, UALR 2

Singles
No. 1 Yuiri Nomoto (MT) def. Yana Kakovkina (UALR) 6-3, 6-1
No. 2 Veronique Luksich (UALR) def. Marietta Bigus (MT) 6-1, 6-1
No. 3 Carla Nava (MT) def. Viktoriya Pluyta (UALR) 6-2, 6-3
No. 4 Rebecca Van Den Houte (UALR) def. Lisa Maas (MT) 6-0, 6-1
No. 5 Lexi Brand (MT) def. Nathalia Garay (UALR) 6-4, 6-1
No. 6 Alex Dachos (MT) def. Rachel Pierce (UALR) 6-3, 6-2

Doubles
No. 1 Maas/Nomoto (MT) def. Kakovkina/Pluyta (UALR) 8-6
No. 2 Luksich/Van Den Houte (UALR) def. Bigus/Brand (MT) 8-7
No. 3 Dachos/Nava (MT) def. Garay/Pierce (UALR) 8-3

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