

Regular season comes to a close in Texas

Blue Raiders to play twice in two days

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team will put its final stamps on the 2011 regular season when it travels to Denton, Texas, for a pair of matches this weekend. The stretch begins with the Blue Raiders facing host North Texas at 3 p.m. Friday before they square off against Troy at Noon Saturday in a neutral site affair.

"We are excited to get back into action and want to end the season on the right foot," head coach Melissa Schaub said. "Since we last played, we have given the players some time off to rest, focus on academics and prepare for this final stretch run. We feel like we have positioned ourselves well for these final matches and are ready to see what we can do."

Middle Tennessee has not played since ending its home schedule April 3 with a 6-1 victory over UAB. It was the second-straight win for the Blue Raiders, as they improved their record to 7-8 entering this weekend.

Four MT players have won two consecutive singles matches, including juniors Taylor Coffey and Alex Dachos and sophomores Lexi Brand and Yuiiri Nomoto. However, junior Carla Nava tops the squad with nine triumphs on the season, one more than Nomoto.

The Dachos/Nava doubles pairing holds the Blue Raiders' top winning streak at the No. 3 position to equal the team's best mark of eight victories. Also with eight doubles wins is the No. 2 tandem of Brand and junior Marietta Bigus.



The host Mean Green enter Friday's match with a 7-11 record after knocking off Tarleton State Tuesday afternoon. North Texas, under the direction of head coach Sujay Lama, is the defending Sun Belt champion. Irina Paraschiv is the lone Mean Green player with double-digit singles triumphs, earning 10 thus far this spring.

Troy, under the direction of head coach Eric Hayes, brings a 10-12 mark into Saturday's neutral site match. A pair of Trojans, Karoline Grymel and Leonie Guijt, pace the squad with 13 singles wins apiece. Troy has won its last five matches, most recently defeating UAB April 9.

After the conclusion of weekend competition, Middle Tennessee will head to Mobile, Ala., for the Sun Belt Conference Championships beginning Thursday.

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