

Volleyball sweeps Troy in weekend finale

Adams posts 20 kills and four blocks in victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team found itself down late in both the second and third sets against visiting Troy, and both times Ashley Adams help lead the Blue Raiders from the brink to win in 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 25-23) fashion at Alumni Memorial Gym on Saturday evening.

Adams finished the match with 20 kills to go along with four blocks, including one of the solo variety. Middle Tennessee has now recorded six consecutive victories to improve to 8-9 on the season and 6-1 in Sun Belt play.

Oyinlola Oladinni and Maria Szivos each put up eight kills,

with Oladinni hitting at a .429 clip and chipping in a pair of service aces. As a team the Blue Raiders posted 47 kills to Troy's 31 and out-hit the Trojans .226 to .126. Defensively, Kendall Howard tallied the team high in digs with 11, and Szivos was second with eight. Lindsey Purvis set a new career high with seven. Oladinni keyed an early run to put Middle Tennessee in control in the first set, and Adams helped her slam the door as the Blue Raiders won 25-19. With the Blue and White down early at 5-7, Oladinni tallied a pair of service aces during a six-point run to hand MT the lead for good at 11-7. However, Troy would not go away, but Oladinni and Adams combined for 10 kills at a .600 rate in the frame to give the Blue Raiders the early 1-0 advantage. Middle Tennessee had to prove their mettle in the second set as a big run led to a seemingly safe 19-12 lead for the Trojans. Adams had other ideas though, tallying five kills over the course of a feverish Blue Raider comeback to tie things up at 22. Both teams would swap errors over the ensuing three points, but Brandi Waller secured the victory with a kill to send Middle Tennessee into the break up 2-0. The third set featured 10 ties and five lead changes as a late Blue Raider surge sealed the sweep with a 25-23 victory. Neither side was able to pull away in the early goings, but a string of MT errors gave Troy the slim edge at 21-19. Adams responded with a pair of kills to bring it even again, and the junior followed up a Troy attack error with a solo block to hand the Blue and White a 23-21 lead. The Trojans weren't done yet though and tied it back up at 23. Back-to-back kills from Adams and Szivos ended the threat to give Middle Tennessee its fifth sweep in six matches. The Blue Raiders will continue their five-match homestand on Tuesday with a non-conference match against Marquette. Middle



Tennessee will be looking for revenge after a loss earlier this season to the Golden Eagles, and first serve at Alumni Memorial Gym is set for 7:00 p.m.

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