Blue Raiders sweep past North Texas for 13th straight win

Wistrick puts up 11 kills in the victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Three Blue Raiders tallied double-digit kills on Friday night to help lead the Middle Tennessee volleyball team to a 3-0 (25-13, 25-20, 25-17) victory over visiting North Texas at Alumni Memorial Gym. "We played really well on offense tonight," head coach Matt Peck said. "We passed pretty well for most of the night, and we had some amazing kills from a number of our players. We're a pretty hard team to stop when we get into system, and this is a good win for us." Wistrick led the offensive outburst, which saw the Blue and White out-hit the Mean Green .354 to .078. The senior tallied 11 kills on the evening to just one error and hit at a remarkable .455 rate. "North Texas played us pretty well last year, so we definitely wanted to prove a point tonight," Wistrick said. "We were in system a lot on offense, and I was getting more balls on the outside, which helped me have a good night." Maria Szivos and Ashley Adams posted 10 kills in the match, with the latter hitting .444. Oyinlola Oladinni hit .467 and logged seven kills. Morgan Peterson was responsible for directing the offense for much of the evening and put up her fourth career double-double with 32 assists and 11 digs. Defensively, Brynne Henderson tied for the match high with 12 digs, and Lindsey Purvis chipped in seven. Lindsay Cheatham and Oladinni helmed the defense at the net, recording six and five blocks respectively as Middle Tennessee out-blocked the Mean Green 11.5 to 4.0. "We played very well defensively tonight, especially with our blocking" Peck said. "Usually it's one or the other that has a big match, so it's great to see both of our middles have big nights. They were very prepared at the net, and they were great at closing the block." Adams was a perfect five-for-five in the first set to lead the Blue Raiders to a 25-13 victory. The two sides were actually tied at 9-9 at one point, but the MT offense caught

fire, hitting .480 in the frame as the Blue Raiders outscored North Texas 16-4 down the stretch. It was a little bit closer in the second set, which featured four lead changes and nine ties, but the Blue and White were able to hold on late, winning 25-20. The Mean Green seemed to have an answer for every Blue Raider rally, and pulled within one late at 20-19. However, a pair of Szivos kills and a Henderson service ace shut the door on the threat to send MT into the break with a 2-0 lead. The Blue Raiders tallied 16 kills and hit .325 in the third set en route to a 25-17 victory. North Texas led early, but a trio of Wistrick kills helped MT grab the lead at 11-8, and the Blue Raiders would never look back. Middle Tennessee has now won 13 straight matches, and with a win on Saturday against Denver, they would tie a school record for consecutive wins. "We're really not focusing on winning streaks, we have to just come out strong to play Denver," Peck said. "They have one of the best players in the conference in Faimie Kingsley, and we want to be able to send our seniors off in the right way. All five of our seniors have been very important in helping us right the ship after the start. I'm very proud of them." The Blue Raiders will celebrate the accomplishments Cheatham, Henderson, Oladinni, Szivos and Wistrick following the match against Denver, which is set to begin at 7 p.m. at Alumni Memorial Gym.

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