

Soccer season ends with tournament heartbreaker

Blue Raiders make second-half push

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. –

Middle Tennessee mounted a late rally but was still unable to find the back of the net

Wednesday night as it

dropped a 1-0 decision to

Western Kentucky during Sun

Belt Tournament quarterfinal

action at Dean A. Hayes Track

and Soccer Stadium. The Blue

Raiders, seeded fifth in the

eight-team field, faced the No.

4-seed Lady Toppers for the

second-straight game. The

Middle Tennessee offense

was unable to get much going

during the first half, trailing 7-1

on shots at the break. The

Lady Toppers, however, were

able to use the offensive push

to their advantage as they

netted the game's first score

at 17:29. As the Blue Raider

defense attempted to clear the

ball out of the 18-yard box

area, Chrissy Tchoula

intercepted the pass and fed it

quickly to Mallory Outerbridge,

who blasted home the assist

from 30 yards away for her

14th tally of the season past

senior goalkeeper Rebecca Cushing. Middle Tennessee (10-9-1) was able to create more offensive

looks in the second half than it did during the opening 45 minutes. Senior Shan Jones sent three

shots near the net with two sailing just over the crossbar. However, the best Blue Raider chance

came with under 11 minutes remaining. Redshirt junior Regina Thomas, an All-Sun Belt Second

Team honoree, sprinted with the ball down the left flank. She sent a shot towards the top of the 18-

yard box. As it crossed along the line, a Western Kentucky (13-6-1) defender knocked it down with

her hand, creating a penalty kick situation. All-Sun Belt Second Team pick, junior Allison Stallard,



lined up from the spot but her attempt low right was turned away by goalkeeper Libby Stout keeping WKU ahead by one. Middle Tennessee added more opportunities late in the contest, pushing forward, but still could not put the ball between the pipes. The Blue Raiders' last chance was a rush in front of the net with Cushing coming all the way up field and attempting the final shot with nine seconds left only to be denied.

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