Blue Raider soccer pair garner All-South honors

MT places players on teams for third-straight season

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KANSAS CITY, Kan. – A pair of Middle Tennessee soccer standouts, redshirt junior Regina Thomas and junior Allison Stallard, were named to the All-South Region Second and Third Teams, respectively, it was announced by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

“I'm really proud of Regina and Allison,” said head coach Aston Rhoden. “They are truly deserving of this honor. Their play was consistent throughout the season and I'm happy to see them reap the benefits of their hard work throughout the off season.”

The pair increase the Blue Raider accolades from the coaches’ association to six, including honors in each of the last three seasons. Thomas is the first of the group to receive Second Team plaudits in school history.

Thomas, an All-Sun Belt Second Team selection, finished the campaign by putting together a career season for the Blue Raiders, starting all 18 matches in which she played, scoring a career-best eight goals and totaling 17 points. Her eight goals featured one game winner and, along with the 17 points, were tops among Middle Tennessee players, while she was second on the team with 43 shots. Two times throughout the season she tallied a pair of goals in a game, the weather-shortened Alabama A&M (Sept. 11) and at ULM (Oct. 16) matches. She also has netted a goal in each of the last two regular-season contests, tallying scores at Troy (Oct. 23) and at Western Kentucky (Oct. 28). Her goal against UALR (Oct. 2) proved to be the game winner and she added the lone player score against FIU (Oct. 9).

Stallard, garnered her first All-Sun Belt honor this fall. She was one of four MT players to start all 20 matches and from her defensive position had a career campaign offensively. She was third on the squad with three goals, including two game winners, while tying for fourth with seven points. Her first score of the fall came at Auburn (Aug. 26), becoming the only Middle Tennessee player to crack the back of the net against the Tigers. After Thomas drew a foul inside the 18-yard box against Arkansas State (Sept. 30) in the home conference opener, Stallard put home the penalty kick, which proved to

be the game winner. She added another clinching score at Louisiana (Oct. 14) when her free kick from 30 yards out found the top left corner of the net.

The Blue Raiders finished 2011 with a 10-9-1, including a 7-3-1 record in the Sun Belt, for 10th-year head coach Aston Rhoden.

Middle Tennessee NSCAA All-Region Selections:
Kala Morgan, Third, 2006
Shan Jones, Third, 2009
Vanessa Mueggler, Third, 2009
Vanessa Mueggler, Third, 2010
Allison Stallard, Third, 2011
Regina Thomas, Second, 2011

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