Blue Raiders head to New Orleans for weekend matches

MT looking to continue momentum in early season stretch

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team, riding a two-match win streak, will head to New Orleans this weekend for a pair of matches as it continues its season-opening stretch away from its home courts. The Blue Raiders start action at 11 a.m. Saturday at former Sun Belt member New Orleans before traveling across town to face Tulane at 2 p.m. Sunday.

"We are excited to continue our road swing in New Orleans this weekend," head coach Shelley Godwin said. "We have done a good job early in the season of learning something from each match that we are able to build on and improve upon. This weekend will be a great opportunity for us to build on the momentum gained from last weekend."

Middle Tennessee is coming off a successful trip to Mobile, Ala., Sunday in which it defeated South Alabama, 4-3. Freshman Nayara Moraes used all three sets to pull out her No. 4 triumph, clinching the match in the Blue Raiders' favor and remaining as one of two unbeatens thus far in singles action at 3-0.

Junior Lexi Brand is the other MT player with an unblemished singles mark to-date. Brand has won her last eight matches, a team high, dating back to the fall tournament campaign. She has started the spring with three-consecutive straight set decisions, while playing in the middle of the lineup.

The Blue Raiders and Privateers will start the weekend by renewing their series, meeting for the first time since 2009 and fifth overall. UNO is off to a 2-0 start this spring, picking up victories against Xavier (La.) and Alcorn State. Middle Tennessee has won each of the previous four matchups against New Orleans, all in the Sun Belt Championships. Saturday's meeting at the University Tennis Center will be the first regular-season meeting between the two programs.

Sunday's contest with the Tulane Green Wave at the Goldring Tennis Center will be the fourth between the two schools, but the first since 2000. The Blue Raiders earned a win in the first meeting, over 30 years ago in 1981 in a neutral-site match in Mobile, Ala. This season, Tulane is off to a 5-0 start, including 3-0 ledger at home.

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