Third-straight victory for Middle Tennessee

Nagayama clinches Blue Raider win

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NEW ORLEANS – Middle Tennessee women's tennis started its two-game road swing through the Big Easy with a 4-3 triumph over former Sun Belt foe New Orleans Saturday morning at the University Tennis Center in New Orleans.

After the Blue Raiders picked up the doubles point, they needed just a split in singles action to post their third-straight win. A three-set decision by sophomore transfer Flavia Nagayama clinched the victory for Middle Tennessee (3-1).

Nagayama dropped her first set but recovered by winning the next two, handing the Privateers' Kristina Martic a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 setback at the No. 2 position.

It was one of two singles matches to go the distance, which also included a New Orleans (2-1) triumph at the No. 4 spot as MT freshman Nayara Moraes was knocked off for the first time this spring.

Junior Yuiri Nomoto earned a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Marta Sans at the No. 1 slot and senior Taylor Coffey registered a 6-1, 6-1 win against Andrea Martin during the No. 6 meeting to provide the Blue Raiders their other two triumphs.

In doubles action, Middle Tennessee started with wins at the top-two positions to win the point for the third-straight match.

Senior Marietta Bigus and junior Lexi Brand recorded an 8-1 victory over Sans and Manuela Gomez at the No. 1 slot, while Moraes and Nomoto defeated Martic and Sofija Kralic 8-2 in the No. 2 matchup.

The Blue Raiders will continue their road swing at 2 p.m. Sunday when they travel across town to face the Tulane Green Wave.

Middle Tennessee 4, New Orleans 3

Singles
No. 1 Yuiri Nomoto (MT) def. Marta Sans (UNO) 6-1, 6-3
No. 2 Flavia Nagayama (MT) def. Kristina Martic (UNO) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2
No. 3 Juliet Labarthe (UNO) def. Lexi Brand (MT) 6-2, 6-4
No. 4 Sofija Karalic (UNO) def. Nayara Moraes (MT) 4-6, 6-3, 10-6
No. 5 Fanny Benincasa (UNO) def. Marietta Bigus (MT) 6-2, 6-1
No. 6 Taylor Coffey (MT) def. Andrea Martin (UNO) 6-1, 6-1

Doubles
No. 1 Bigus/Brand (MT) def. Manuela Gomez/Sans (UNO) 8-1
No. 2 Moraes/Nomoto (MT) def. Karalic/Martic (UNO) 8-2
No. 3 Benincasa/Labarthe (UNO) def. Alex Dachos/Coffey (MT) 8-5

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