Senior Day sweep for Blue Raiders

MT wins 11th straight against WKU

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's tennis celebrated Senior Day by sweeping rival Western Kentucky, 7-0, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The victory provided the Blue Raiders with double-digit wins for the first time since 2010 and just the third season in the last eight years with at least 10 victories. "Our confidence really came through again today in an emotional day celebrating the careers of our seniors," head coach Shelley Godwin said. "To get to 10 wins at this point in the season is a great accomplishment, but we're far from finished and will not rest on on our laurels just yet. We have a lot of work ahead of us and we know we have to continue to fight in each match to be successful." Middle Tennessee (10-4) started the afternoon with a sweep of the three doubles matches. Senior Marietta Bigus and junior Yuiri Nomoto opened the action with an 8-1 triumph at the No. 2 slot over the Lady Toppers' Carolina Barboza and Alex Crofford. The point then fell to the Blue Raiders as the No. 3 tandem of senior Alex Dachos and sophomore Flavia Nagayama defeated Morgan Freeman and Katrina Vucina, 8-2. To complete the sweep, MT's junior Lexi Brand and freshman Nayara Moraes handed the No. 1 Western Kentucky (7-4) pairing of Madeline Phillips and Monta Reinfelde an 8-4 setback. Middle Tennessee quickly jumped out to a 3-0 edge when it captured two singles matches without dropping a game. Nagayama posted a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Crofford at the No. 3 slot, while Brand equaled the effort with her No. 2 victory against Barboza. Bigus clinched the team win with a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Phillips in the No. 5 meeting before senior Taylor Coffey followed with a 6-1, 6-1 decision against Freeman in the No. 6 contest. After battling through a tough first set, Moraes made sure the second was not a repeat as she recorded a 7-5, 6-0 win at No. 4 versus Vucina. Likewise, Nomoto fought through a difficult opening set before knocking off Reinfelde 7-6, 6-1 to complete the 11th-straight win the series and sixth consecutive shutout against the Lady Toppers. The Blue Raiders return to action when they hit the road for a pair of matches in Arkansas, starting at 1 p.m. Friday in Jonesboro, Ark., against Arkansas State. MT will then face UALR at 10 a.m. Saturday before returning to Murfreesboro for the final home match of the campaign, April 3, against Lipscomb. **Middle Tennessee 7, Western Kentucky 0**

Singles
No. 1 Yuiri Nomoto (MT) def. Monta Reinfelde (WKU) 7-6, 6-1
No. 2 Lexi Brand (MT) def. Carolina Barboza (WKU) 6-0, 6-0

No. 3 Flavia Nagayama (MT) def. Alex Crofford (WKU) 6-0, 6-0
No. 4 Nayara Moraes (MT) def. Katrina Vucina (WKU) 7-5, 6-0
No. 5 Marietta Bigus (MT) def. Madeline Phillips (WKU) 6-1, 6-0
No. 6 Taylor Coffey (MT) def. Morgan Freeman (WKU) 6-1, 6-1

Doubles
No. 1 Brand/Moraes (MT) def. Phillips/Reinfelde (WKU) 8-4
No. 2 Bigus/Nomoto (MT) def. Barboza/Crofford (WKU) 8-1
No. 3 Alex Dachos/Nagayama (MT) def. Freeman/Vucina (WKU) 8-2

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