

# Middle Tennessee pushes win streak to seven with Saturday victory

## Most overall victories since 2004 for Blue Raiders

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**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** – Middle Tennessee women's tennis has extended its current win streak to seven with a 5-2 victory at UALR Saturday in Little Rock, Ark. The win streak is the most in a row since the program joined the Sun Belt and longest since 2000.

Five Blue Raiders picked up singles triumphs to help pull out the win after the Trojans claimed the doubles point. UALR (11-11) became just the second school in the last five matches to take the point from MT.

Middle Tennessee managed its lone doubles triumph at the No. 3 position, as senior Alex Dachos and sophomore Flavia Nagayama knocked off Alina Kolegova and Nina Yates 8-2.

Needing four wins in singles to clinch the team victory, the Blue Raiders earned five, including a pair of three-set decisions.



Junior Lexi Brand rebounded after being forced to retire in Friday's contest at Arkansas State to come-from-behind and tally a 1-6, 7-6, 10-6 decision against Viktoriya Plyuta at the No. 2 position.

Senior Taylor Coffey also was forced to rally after dropping her first set, recording a 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over Kolegova at the No. 6 slot.

Nagayama posted a 7-5, 6-0 victory against Yana Kakovkina at the No. 3 spot, while freshman Nayara Moraes dropped just one game in handing Michaela McShane a 6-0, 6-1 setback in the No. 4 meeting.

Senior Marietta Bigus also won in straight sets, knocking off Yates at the No. 5 slot 6-0, 6-2.

Middle Tennessee (12-4) has now won the most dual matches since the 2004 squad also won 12 times in head coach Randy Holden's final season.

The Blue Raiders return to action at 2 p.m. Tuesday when they play host to Lipscomb in the home finale at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. Although the two teams have met numerous times during the fall tournament campaigns, Tuesday's contest will be the first dual match meeting since 1983 and just the eighth overall, with MT owning a 7-1 edge including seven-straight triumphs.

### **Middle Tennessee 5, UALR 2**

#### *Singles*

- No. 1 Veronique Luksich (UALR) def. Yuiri Nomoto (MT) 6-0, 4-6, 10-3
- No. 2 Lexi Brand (MT) def. Viktoriya Plyuta (UALR) 1-6, 7-6, 10-6
- No. 3 Flavia Nagayama (MT) def. Yana Kakovkina (UALR) 7-5, 6-0
- No. 4 Nayara Moraes (MT) def. Michaela McShane (UALR) 6-0, 6-1
- No. 5 Marietta Bigus (MT) def. Nina Yates (UALR) 6-0, 6-2
- No. 6 Taylor Coffey (MT) def. Alina Kolegova (UALR) 2-6, 6-1, 6-3

#### *Doubles*

- No. 1 Kakovkina/Plyuta (UALR) def. Brand/Moraes (MT) 8-6
- No. 2 Luksich/McShane (UALR) def. Bigus/Nomoto (MT) 9-8
- No. 3 Alex Dachos/Nagayama (MT) def. Kolegova/Yates (UALR) 8-2

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