Nagayama picked as Sun Belt Player of the Week

Second-straight week Blue Raiders receive honor

April 4, 2012 · Athletic Communications

NEW ORLEANS – Middle Tennessee women's tennis earned its second-straight Sun Belt Player of the Week plaudit Wednesday, as sophomore Flavia Nagayama collected her first career award it was announced for the week of April 4.

Nagayama, a transfer into the Blue Raider program and playing her first season with the squad, continued to produce positive results this past week, finishing with 3-0 marks in both singles and doubles.

She started her week by clinching the road contest at Arkansas State at the No. 3 singles position with a straight-set decision. Less than 24 hours later, she again won in straight sets picking up a triumph at UALR as MT won both times on the road. She then sealed Tuesday's sweep over Lipscomb with a come-from-behind victory after dropping the opening set.

In doubles play, she and her partner, senior Alex Dachos, had no trouble in earning three wins this past week. They were the only Middle Tennessee doubles pairing to win at UALR and picked up crucial points in the other two matches to give the Blue Raiders the point.

Overall, Middle Tennessee has raised its record to 13-4 with eight-straight victories. The 13 wins are the most since 2002 and the eight-match run is the longest since 2000. The Blue Raiders also

completed the home slate unbeaten for only the third time in program history, and first since 1998.

Nagayama's honor followed last week's award presented to junior Yuiri Nomoto. Only 13 Sun Belt Players of the Week have been MT student-athletes since the program joined the conference in 2000.

This year's two honors mark the first time since 2006 Blue Raiders have been named the recipient in back-to-back weeks and more than one award has been given to Middle Tennessee in the same season.

The Blue Raiders will close their regular season with three-straight road matches, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Friday when they travel to Monroe, La., to face ULM.

Blue Raider SBC Players of the Week
Manon Kruse (M12, 02)
Manon Kruse (A24, 03)
Manon Kruse (F4, 04)
Manon Kruse (F25, 04)
Manon Kruse (M31, 04)
Manon Kruse (A7, 04)
Ann-Kristin Siljestrom (F16, 05)
Claudia Szabo (F8, 06)
Ann-Kristin Siljestrom (F14, 06)
Natalie Araya (F10, 10)
Yuiri Nomoto (F9, 11)
Yuiri Nomoto (M28, 12)
Flavia Nagayama (A4, 12)

Printed on December 8, 2013
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/60178