Women’s tennis regular season comes to a close this weekend

Blue Raiders have won 10 of their last 12

April 12, 2012 · Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women’s tennis will look to regroup from its first loss in over a month when it travels to Troy, Ala., this weekend for a pair of matches at the Jimmy C. Lunsford Tennis Complex. The two-match set opens with the Blue Raiders facing the host Trojans at 2:30 p.m. Friday before battling North Texas in neutral action at Noon Saturday.

“We are ready to get back on the courts after a tough outing last weekend,” head coach Shelley Godwin said. “We got right back to practice and have been focused in on closing out our season strong this weekend. Troy and North Texas will both be great matches that will help us prepare for the tournament next week.”

Middle Tennessee has won 10 of its last 12 entering the weekend, including an eight-match win streak that was snapped in its last outing. The Blue Raiders fell 5-2 at ULM Friday despite capturing the doubles point for the sixth time in the last eight contests.

Sophomore Flavia Nagayama, last week’s Sun Belt Player of the Week, posted the lone MT singles triumph in Friday’s loss to extend her current win streak to nine at the No. 3 position. Combined with the fall tournament results, she has won a team-high 22 matches, including 13 this spring.

Her 13 dual victories equal the team-best mark with freshman Nayara Moraes, who has attained her

ledger playing mostly at the No. 4 slot in her first collegiate campaign.

In doubles, Nagayama and senior Alex Dachos own MT's top record at 7-3. The pair's win total is just one more than the tandem of senior Marietta Bigus and junior Yuiri Nomoto.

Troy brings a 10-6 overall record into the contest, including a current six-match win streak. The current Trojan run began with a 6-1 triumph at Georgia Southern March 15 and included a shutout Monday at home against Alabama State.

Karoline Grymel, this week's Sun Belt Player of the Week, ties Candela Munoz Giron for the team's best singles mark at 10-6. Both players have won their last six, mirroring the squad's recent success.

Grymel and Lyubov Dorofeeva also moved into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association national rankings this week, sliding into the No. 89 spot as the only Sun Belt pairing listed. The duo is 11-2 this spring with eight-straight victories entering Friday.

North Texas carries a 13-6 overall ledger into Saturday's meeting, having most recently knocked off UT-Arlington Monday afternoon. It was the fifth win in the last six matches for the Mean Green.

The Blue Raiders trail slightly to Troy in the all-time series, 5-4, having lost the last four times the two teams have met, including last year's Sun Belt Tournament. The last Middle Tennessee triumph was 4-3 at home April 8, 2007.

North Texas also holds a small edge in the all-time series, picking up six-straight triumphs for a 6-4 advantage. The Blue Raiders last posted a victory by a 4-1 score April 22, 2005, in the Sun Belt Tournament.

Printed on March 10, 2014
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/60373