Blue Raiders lose 3-0 match to Austin Peay at Alumni Memorial Gym

Anderton paces Middle Tennessee with 19 assists and four blocks

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee volleyball team lost 3-0 (22-25, 23-25, 20-25) Tuesday night to the Austin Peay Lady Govs at Alumni Memorial Gym. The loss is the Blue Raiders' sixth in a row. Senior outside hitter Ashley Adams led Middle Tennessee with 12 kills.

Chelsea Ross had a double-double of 11 kills and 10 digs. Freshman setter Shelby Anderton led the Blue Raiders with 19 assists and four blocks, two of which were solo blocks. Bri McCombs tied for the match-high in digs with 12.

Austin Peay (6-9) go out to an early 5-3 lead in the opening set on a kill by Jada Stotts. The Lady Govs grew the lead to four at 10-6 on back-to-back Lauren Henderson kills. Middle Tennessee (3-9) used a 4-0 run to tie the set at 12-12, getting kills by Adams, Miri Shade, and Alyssa Ivey. The Blue Raiders took the lead at 16-15 after an Austin Peay error. The Lady Govs broke an 18-18 tie with a Stotts kill, then won the next three points to take a 22-18 lead. Middle Tennessee only got as close as two the rest of the way as Austin Peay took the first set 25-22.

The Blue Raiders controlled the early portion of the second set. Three Ross kills put Middle Tennessee ahead 4-1. Austin Peay tied the set 7-7 with a Henderson kill, then won two more points to go up 9-7. The Lady Govs extended the lead to four at 12-8 after consecutive blocks by Henderson and Cami Fields. Middle Tennessee came back with a 5-0 run highlighted by a block by Ross and Tyler Richardson to take a 13-12 lead. Austin Peay tied the set 13-13 and the two teams traded points up to 17-17. Brandi Waller put down kills on consecutive points to give the Blue Raiders a 19-17 edge. Middle Tennessee led 23-22 after an Adams kill but could not put away Austin Peay. The Lady Govs won the next three points to steal the second set 25-23.

Middle Tennessee controlled the third set early, taking an 11-7 lead after an Anderton solo block. The Blue Raiders led 13-11 when Stotts put down two kills in a row to get Austin Peay level at 13-13. With the set tied 17-17, the Lady Govs won seven of the next eight points to earn match point at 24-18. Middle Tennessee fought off two match points with a block and an Adams kill, but Henderson gave Austin Peay the sweep with a kill to give the Lady Govs a 25-20 win in the third.

Austin Peay hit .216 for the match, holding the Blue Raiders to a .152 hitting percentage. Stotts led the Lady Govs with 19 kills and 12 digs. Fields had a match-high 35 assists.

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