Volleyball drops 3-1 decision to Miami at Louisville Invitational

Ross posts double-double of 20 kills and 12 digs

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. - The Middle Tennessee volleyball team won its first set against Miami (Fla.) Saturday 28-26 and hit .304 in the set. However, the Blue Raiders did not hit over .220 in the next three sets, losing to the Hurricanes 3-1 (28-26, 19-25, 22-25, 24-26) in the Louisville Invitational at the KFC Yum! Center.

Freshman outside hitter Chelsea Ross led Middle Tennessee with 20 kills and added 12 digs for a double-double. Ashley Adams had 17 kills and went over 900 kills for her career. She also led the Blue Raiders with seven blocks. Shelby Anderton had a season-high 45 assists and was in on four blocks. Brandi Waller and Tyler Richardson were each in on six blocks.

Middle Tennessee (3-11) battled back from a 9-4 deficit in the first set against Miami (9-1) to tie the set at 14-14. The Blue Raiders used a 4-0 run capped off by a Waller solo block to level the set. The two teams traded points up to 17-17 when the Hurricanes used kills by Emani Sims and Alexis Mourning to take a 21-17 lead. The Blue Raiders once again tied the set with a 4-0 run as a Ross kill evened the set at 21-21.

Middle Tennessee took its first lead of the set at 24-23 on a block by Waller and Adams. Miami then tied the set at 24-24 with a kill by Kelsie Groot. Groot gave the Hurricanes a set point at 26-25, but the Blue Raiders fought that off with an Adams kill. The Blue Raiders earned their second set point chance on a block by Adams and Richardson. Middle Tennessee won the set 28-26 on a Miami error, hitting .304 in the opening set.

The Hurricanes used a 5-1 run and a 7-0 run in the second set to jump out to a 14-5 lead. The Blue Raiders got within three at 18-15 and were within two points of Miami at 20-18 on a block by Adams, Richardson, and Anderton. The Hurricanes then won five of the last six points to win the set 25-19 and even the match at a set apiece.

After trading points to start the third set, Middle Tennessee broke a 7-7 tie with four consecutive

points to take an 11-7 lead. The Blue Raiders lengthened their advantage to six at 16-10 after back-to-back kills by Ross and Katie Bange. Miami came back with a 10-2 run capped off by a block by Mourning and Taylor Hollins that put the Hurricanes ahead 20-18. Middle Tennessee tied the match 20-20 on an Adams solo block. Miami broke a 21-21 tie with another Mourning kill, then took the next two points to have a set point at 24-21. The Hurricanes won the third set 25-22 on a Sims kill and took a 2-1 lead in the match.

Miami took a fast 9-5 lead to open the fourth set, going on a 4-0 run to break a 5-5 deadlock. The Blue Raiders chipped away at the Hurricanes lead, getting within one at 18-17 on a block by Waller and Anderton. Middle Tennessee tied the set 20-20 as Waller blocked a Mourning attempt. Anderton followed with an ace for the Blue Raiders' first lead of the set 21-20. The two teams swapped points up to 23-23 when a Richardson kill gave Middle Tennessee a set point at 24-23. Miami tied the set 24-24 on a Blue Raiders error, then won the set 26-24 and the match 3-1.

The Blue Raiders will play their final match in the Louisville Invitational at 4 p.m. Saturday against UNLV.

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