Blue Raiders Edged by Memphis, 3-2

Brouwer notches 8 saves in contest

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee played a strong offensive game, but a pair of goals from Christabel Oduro gave Memphis a 3-2 win over the Blue Raiders at the Mike Rose Soccer Complex Sunday afternoon.

MT (5-3-0) put together eight shots, four of which were on goal in the loss. Memphis (4-3-0) responded with 19 shots in the victory. Middle Tennessee took an early lead and tied the game in the second half, but Memphis used a second half goal to stave off the Raiders.

Oduro gave UM a go-ahead goal in the first half. At the 67th minute, she scored the game winner to give the Lady Tigers their second consecutive win.

Middle Tennessee goalkeeper Kelsey Brouwer collected eight saves, just one short of her career-high. Brouwer's valiant effort deflected several Memphis shots away from the net, including two shots in the span of 20 seconds.

Freshman Emily Jorgenson tallied her first collegiate goal with a ball driven inside the left box to put the Blue Raiders up 1-0 at the 17th minute.

Memphis notched the equalizer when Kylie Davis scored off a UM corner kick with 5:21 left in the first half.

The Lady Tigers took advantage of a pair of corner kicks. Oduro knocked in the second goal for UM as she capitalized from a ball played from the corner into the box.

At the half, Middle Tennessee had four shots against the Lady Tigers.

The Blue Raiders scored the equalizer at 51:29 when freshman Kate Loye tallied her first collegiate goal from four yards out after a scramble inside the box.

About 16 minutes later, Oduro responded once again for the Lady Tigers. The junior connected on a goal from the left side to put Memphis up 3-2.

Middle Tennessee had a pair of shots in the final portion of the half, but the Lady Tigers controlled possession as they sealed their third all-time victory against MT.

Coach Aston Rhoden recognized his team's resilience, especially against a formidable opponent like Memphis.

"We played good today, but it's about growth," said Rhoden. "We've got to keep in mind that more than 50 percent of our players are new. We played a team that was No. 6 in the country last year. We were able to take the lead and tie the game when we were down. We are nowhere near where we need to be. We have to clean up a couple of small things as we enter conference play."

The Blue Raiders open Sun Belt Conference action next weekend at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium. UALR visits MT on Friday evening at 7pm, with Arkansas State coming to Murfreesboro on Sunday at 1pm.

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