

MT downs Southern Miss in four sets

Raiders win fourth-straight C-USA match, improve to 6-2

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Freshman Jale Hervey had a career-high 20 kills in the Middle Tennessee volleyball team's four-set win over Conference USA foe Southern Miss on Friday night at Alumni Memorial Gym. In the win, the Blue Raiders improve to 14-8 and 6-2 in C-USA, while the Golden Eagles fall to 12-11 and 3-5 in C-USA. The victory is the fourth-straight win in C-USA play for Middle Tennessee.



Hervey was one of three Blue Raiders in double-figures in kills, joining sophomore Chelsea Ross (11) and redshirt-junior Monet Marshall (10). Ross tallied a double-double of 11 kills and 11 digs, while Marshall recorded a .750 (10k-1e-12ta) hitting percentage. Redshirt-sophomore Tyler Richardson led MT with five blocks, while junior Ailime de Freitas had a team-high 29 assists.

The Blue Raiders dominated the first set, taking the frame 25-15 behind a .368 hitting percentage and four blocks from Richardson. Richardson's four blocks came over the course of the first nine MT points. Hervey and Marshall would each have three kills in the set. Southern Miss struggled, hitting .125 in the opening stanza.

The Golden Eagles responded in the second set by putting together their most complete frame of the match. Southern Miss hit .323 in the set, and led by as many as four before MT pulled even at 19-19. Errors took away any hope of stealing the set back from the Golden Eagles though, as Southern Miss was able to capitalize on MT's mistakes and close out a 25-22 second set victory.

The Blue Raiders returned from the intermission and put together one of their strongest sets of the season in the third. MT hit .517 (18k-3e-29ta) in the set, with six players - Hervey, Marshall, Ross, Richardson, sophomore Rachel Shaughnessy and redshirt-freshman Jazmyne Johnson - all recording multiple kills in the set. The Blue Raiders took the third set, 25-18.

MT continued its success into the fourth set, leading 7-2 to open the frame. The Raiders cruised to a 23-16 advantage before the Golden Eagles clawed back for five of the next six points, cutting the deficit to 24-20. Johnson then put the match away with a kill off a set from de Freitas to close out the four-set victory.

The Blue Raiders return to action on Friday, Nov. 1 at 7:00 p.m., when they host Tulsa at Alumni Memorial Gym.

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