MIDDLE TENNESSEE LADY RAIDER BASKETBALL

2004-05 Lady Raider Schedule/Results
(0-0)

NOVEMBER			
1	**Mon.**	**Henderson State (Exh.)**	**W, 72-64**
6	**Sat.**	**Georgia College (EXH)**	**2 PM**
12	**Fri.**	**$South Florida**	**6 PM**
14	Sun.	&Duke/Davidson	TBA
17	Wed.	WNIT Semi-Finals	TBA
19	**Fri.**	**#FAU**	**5:30 PM**
20	Sat.	Finals	TBA
22	Mon.	at Alabama	7 PM
27	Sat.	%Wisconsin	2 PM
28	Sun.	%at Houston	2 PM
DECEMBER			
2	Thu.	at Georgia State	5 PM
4	Sat.	at Georgia Southern	4 PM
9	Thu.	at Tennessee Tech	7 PM
18	**Sat.**	**South Carolina**	**7 PM**
21	**Tue.**	**Austin Peay**	**2 PM**
29	**Wed.**	**Cincinnati**	**6 PM**
JANUARY			
3	**Mon.**	**South Dakota State**	**7 PM**
6	**Thu.**	**Xavier**	**6 PM**
13	**Thu.**	***UALR**	**6 PM**
15	**Sat.**	**^*Arkansas State**	**2 PM**
20	Thu.	*at New Orleans	7 PM
22	Sat.	*at South Alabama	7 PM
27	**Thu.**	***Louisiana-Lafayette**	**6 PM**
29	**Sat.**	***New Mexico State**	**2 PM**
FEBRUARY			
3	Thu.	*at Western Kentucky	7 PM
7	Mon.	*at Florida International	6 PM
10	**Thu.**	**#*Denver**	**5:30 PM**
12	Sat.	*at North Texas	5 PM
17	Thu.	*at UALR	7 PM
19	Sat.	*at Arkansas State	7:05 PM
24	**Thu.**	***Western Kentucky**	**6 PM**
26	**Sat.**	**^*Florida International**	**2 PM**
MARCH			
4-8		Sun Belt Tournament	TBA

$Preseason WNIT
%Houston Tournament (Houston, TX)
*Sun Belt Conference Game
#Doubleheader with the men.
^ESPN Plus Telecast

( ) - indicates ranking at time of game in Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today polls.

All Times are Central Time

EX

(RV) Middle Tennessee (0-0)
vs
Georgia College and State University (0-0)

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2004
Place: Murphy Center (11,500)
Time: 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Radio: N/A
TV: MT TV (Local Only)

■ Middle Tennessee Probable Starters

No.	Name	Hometown	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	PPG	RPG
21	Tia Stovall	Estill Springs, TN	F	6-1	Jr.		
4	Krystle Horton	Murfreesboro, TN	F	6-2	So.		
23	Patrice Holmes	Bishopville, SC	G	5-9	Sr.		
22	Chrissy Givens	Monroe, LA	G	5-11	So.		
12	Starr Orr	Danville, AL	G	5-8	Fr.		

■ Off the Bench

No.	Name	Hometown	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	PPG	RPG
2	Jenne Webb	Murfreesboro, TN	G	5-8	So.		
10	Sara Nuxol	Winter Springs, FL	G	5-8	Fr.		
11	Ditte Jakobsen	Skovlunde, Denmark	F/G	6-2	Sr.		
14	Latoya Barclay	Harvest, AL	G	5-5	Fr.		
31	Lakira Boyd	Memphis, TN	F	6-2	Fr.		
50	Amber Benjamin	Manchester, TN	F	6-3	Fr.	**Eligible in Dec.**	

GAME DAY NOTES: Middle Tennessee faces off against Georgia College and State University in the Lady Raiders second and final exhibition game of the season. The Lady Raiders are going up against a Lady Bobcat team that went 28-6 in 2003-04 and reached the finals of the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional. Senior Latia Love who was named a preseason Honorable Mention All-America selection by the Women's Division II Bulletin leads GCSU. Love, a 5'7" guard/forward from Lebanon, Tenn., was a first team All-Peach Belt Conference selection and the Most Valuable Player of the conference tournament last season after helping the Lady Bobcats win the PBC Tournament Championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament. She averaged 13.0 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game and was second in the conference with an .827 free-throw shooting percentage. She was also named to the NCAA All-Region Tournament team after leading GC&SU to the regional final.

FOR THE SECOND TIME: Middle Tennessee is playing its second consecutive game against a NCAA Division II opponent in exhibition action. Both teams reached the NCAA Tournament in 2003-04.

MEDIA INFORMATION

WEBPAGE: For updated releases and game notes, statistics, boxscores, and player and coach bios, please click on GoBlueRaiders.com for all your requests. The media relations office will have game notes on the site one day before the upcoming contest and will have boxscores and game recaps available immediately following all contests. Also, 300 dpi player and coach mugshots can be obtained by media outlets at Media.GoBlueRaiders.com.

CREDENTIALS: All credentials must be requested from Denise Gideon, Assistant Media Relations Director, at least 24 hours prior to tipoff. Media accomodations are on a PRIORITY basis: daily newspapers, originating radio stations, national electronic media outlets and local and regional television crews. All credential requests must be submitted on letterhead to the MT Athletic Media Relations Office. No credentials will be mailed unless you specifically request such service -- your credentials can be picked up at the media gate at Murphy Center on gameday. Access to press row will be granted only to authorized persons with press row passes for that specific game. Spouses, dates, children and other non-workers are not permitted in the working press areas.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS: Both the Middle Tennessee and visiting locker rooms are located on the lower concourse of Murphy Center on the east side. Approximately 10 minutes after the game, Stephany Smith will be available for interviews. At home games, Middle Tennessee players will be available following a 10-minute cooling off period.

On the road, the MT coaches and players will be available following a 10-minute cooling off period. Smith will meet with the media following her postgame talk with the team, and players will be made available upon request.

STEPHANY SMITH RADIO SHOW: Stephany Smith Lady Raider Basketball show on Monday evenings. The show, which is broadcast live each week from Corky's restaurant in Murfreesboro, will be aired on WMTS 88.3 from 6-7 PM. The show will feature comments from Smith about her team's performances and upcoming games. Smith will also field questions from audience members.

MEDIA RELATIONS

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STOVALL LEADS THE WAY: Tia Stovall paced Middle Tennessee in the Lady Raiders 72-64 win over Henderson State. She had 20 points, shooting 8-of-13 from the field and was 4-of-7 from the charity stripe. Senior Patrice Holmes added 16 points, Chrissy Givens had 13 points and Krystle Horton recorded 11.

CLEARING THE BENCH: Nine of the 10 Lady Raiders on the active roster saw action in the game against Henderson State. Freshmen Starr Orr and Lakira Boyd each recorded points in the game with four and six, respectively.

PRESEASON WNIT: Middle Tennessee participates in its first Preseason WNIT when the Lady Raiders host South Florida on November 12. The two teams meet for the second time in school history. The Lady Raiders defeated the Bulls 79-64 on January 12, 1990. The winner will move into the quarterfinals to face either Davidson or Duke on November 14.

PRESEASON RANKINGS: Middle Tennessee women's basketball received 25 votes in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches poll, ranked 25th in the Athlon Magazine Preseason poll and ranked 55 in the Top 64 teams in CBS SportsLine.Com Magazine. The Lady Raiders had a record of 24-8 in 2003-04, winning the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title and defeating No. 12 North Carolina, 67-62, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

LADY RAIDERS PICKED TO WIN EAST: The Lady Raiders, as voted on by the league coaches, received 10 of the 11 First Place votes in the East and 54 overall. It is the first time, since entering the Sun Belt the Lady Raiders have been tabbed as the preseason favorite. Sun Belt Tournament runner-up Western Kentucky was picked second with 41 votes and one first-place vote. Arkansas State was third (35), Florida International fourth (22) and Arkansas-Little Rock fifth (13). In the West, South Alabama received all 11 first-place votes for the number one spot with 66. Louisiana-Lafayette was second (47), North Texas third (43), Denver fourth (39), New Mexico State (23) and New Orleans sixth (13).

HOLMES VOTED PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Patrice Holmes, the two-time Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player, received the most votes by the coaches to become the Preseason pick for Sun Belt Player of the Year and also a Preseason First Team All-Conference. The senior guard, from Bishopville, South Carolina, averaged 15.7 points and 6.0 rebounds per game in 2003-04.

HORTON/STOVALL PRESEASON PICKS: Sophomore forward Krystle Horton, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., also received the nod on the Sun Belt Preseason First Team. Horton, who was named to the 2003-04 Sun Belt First Team and All-Tournament, was second on the team in scoring with 15 points per game. Tia Stovall, the squad's third leading scorer from last season, was voted to the Sun Belt Preseason Third Team. Stovall, a junior forward from Estill Springs, Tenn., was also a Sun Belt All-Tournament selection in 2003-04 and averaged 10.7 points per game.

Pronounciation Guide:

Lakira Boyd	La-keer-a
Ditte Jakobsen	Dee-tah Jake-ob-son
Sara Nuxol	Nucks-ull
Jenne Webb	Jen-ah

STEPHANY SMITH

HEAD COACH

EIGHTH SEASON/12th at MT

Coach Stephany Smith is entering her eighth year at the helm of the Lady Raider basketball program with high expectations.

Smith made an appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the second time in her seven-year reign last season and is looking to repeat that feat in 2005. After garnering the first 20-win mark of her career in 2003-04, Smith led her athletic squad to a Sun Belt Tournament title in just the school's fourth year in the league. She also coached junior stand-out Patrice Holmes to her second straight Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player award.

For the first time in her career and the second time in school history, the team made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament with a 67-62 win over No. 12 North Carolina. The win, by No. 13 seed Middle Tennessee, was just the third time in NCAA Tournament history a 13 seed knocked off a No. 4 seed.

The Brookhaven, Miss., native has established herself as one of college basketball's brightest young coaches and is looking forward to the season ahead.

Completing her seventh campaign, Smith's record stands as a testament to her hard work, excellent recruiting skills, and knowledge of the game. In seven seasons, Smith sports a 129-79 record and has not only the 2004 Sun Belt Tournament Title but an OVC regular season title and an OVC Tournament title to her credit. The NCAA berth in 2003-04 was the fourth team Smith has led into postseason play, with an NCAA berth in 1998 and WNIT bids in 1999 and 2001.

Smith did not enter into her first head coaching job blindly. She spent four years as an assistant at Middle Tennessee to former head coach Lewis Bivens, heading up the team's recruiting efforts during that time. Smith was promoted to associate head coach in her final season under Bivens.

The 1995-96 squad went 24-6, the second-most victories in school history, before falling to Kansas in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Lawrence, Kan. The Lady Raiders were OVC Co-Champions in 1994-95 and 1995-96, compiling 64 wins in Smith's first three seasons on the MT staff. Fruits of her labors at Middle Tennessee were shown in 1996 when the Lady Raiders received votes in both collegiate polls, ranking as high as 26th. The school received its first at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament to further attest the program's growing stature.

Smith spent four years as an assistant at UAB before her arrival at Middle Tennessee, coordinating recruiting for the Blazers. UAB went 76-45 during her four seasons on the staff, winning or tying for the Sun Belt Conference crown twice (1990, '91) and sharing the Great Midwest Conference title in 1992. The Lady Blazers made two WNIT trips (1991, '92) during Smith's association with the UAB program.

She spent one year as a graduate assistant at her alma mater, Harding University, in 1989. Teams associated with Smith have a 255-158 record during her 14 years on the Division I level, including four 20-plus win seasons and two 19-win campaigns.

Smith's claim to fame is recruiting: as she has established a reputation as one of the game's top young coaches and as a top-flight recruiter. She is also a teacher of the game holding a coaching clinic over the summer to instruct other coaches on various offenses. Three of her former players have gone on to play in the professional ranks including former Lady Raider Joanne Aluka who played in Portugal and was a member of the Nigerian women's basketball team at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens.

Jacque Nero played six years overseas before being selected fourth by Nashville in the 1998 ABL draft. Shyronda Mifflin has played four seasons overseas and was on the Atlanta Glory's practice squad for part of the 1998 season before returning to Spain.

Her coaching philosophy stresses establishing fundamental knowledge of the game in practice. The repetition of fundamentals in practice allows her players the freedom to use that knowledge coupled with their athletic skills over the course of a game. An intense conditioning regimen also lends Smith's squad the opportunity to play an up-tempo style predicated on defensive intensity.

Smith graduated from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., with a B.A. in Physical Education in May of 1988 before receiving an M.S.E. in 1989. She began her career at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Miss. She received an associate's degree from Co-Lin in May of 1986.

Smith competed in basketball at both Co-Lin and Harding and also spent a year as the head girls track coach at Searcy High School in 1989 while completing her Master's degree at Harding.

Smith is truly people-oriented. She has planned and directed numerous non-profit clinics at Middle Tennessee and UAB for girls to further promote the game of basketball. She now heads up one of the most successful camps in the country, the Middle Tennessee "Stars of Tomorrow" camp, each summer.

She is the daughter of Ralph and Betsy Smith. She has three brothers (Ralph, Richard, Cameron) and one sister (Sydney).

Assistant Coaches:
Melanie Walls
Kim Rosamond
Drew Clinton
Keisha McClinic

Smith's Year-by-Year Head Coaching Record

Year	School	Overall	Pct.	Conf/Finish	Home	Away	Neutral	Conf. Tourney	Postseason
1997-98	Middle Tennessee	18-12	.600	11-7/4th	8-4	6-7	4-1	3-0/Champions	NCAA/0-1
1998-99	Middle Tennessee	18-10	.643	14-4/t1st	11-2	7-6	0-2	0-1/1st Round	WNIT/0-1
1999-00	Middle Tennessee	18-11	.621	13-5/2nd	11-2	6-7	1-2	1-1/Semifinals	-
2000-01	Middle Tennessee	17-13	.567	9-7/5th	10-2	5-9	2-2	1-1/Q-finals	WNIT/0-1
2001-02	Middle Tennessee	16-13	.551	7-7/3rd	7-7	8-5	1-1	1-1/Q-finals	-
2002-03	Middle Tennessee	18-12	.592	9-5/2nd	10-3	6-8	2-1	2-1-Finals	-
2003-04	Middle Tennessee	24-8	.750	10-4/t1st	11-2	9-5	4-1	3-0/Champions	NCAA/1-1
TOTAL		**129-79**	**.620**		**68-22**	**47-47**	**14-10**		