MIDDLE TENNESSEE

2004-05 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

OVERALL RECORD: *0-0*

HOME: *0-0* ***NEUTRAL:*** *0-0*

AWAY: *0-0* ***SUN BELT:*** *0-0*

N. 11	**North Alabama (Exh.)**	**W, 86-62**
N. 19	**Lambuth University**	**7:30 PM**
N. 23	at Rice	7:05 PM
N. 27	at Mississippi Valley State	7 PM
N. 29	**Belmont**	**7 PM**
D. 2	**Tennessee Wesleyan**	**7 PM**
D. 5	**Tennessee State**	**4 PM**
D. 11	**Mississippi Valley State**	**7 PM**
D. 20	Toledo &	9 AM
D. 21	Auburn &	11 AM
D. 22	Delaware &	9 AM
D. 27	at Villanova	7:30 PM
D. 30	at Austin Peay	7 PM
J. 2	**Virginia Commonwealth**	**2 PM**
J. 5	at IPFW	7 PM
J. 10	**Arkansas-Little Rock ***	**7 PM**
J. 13	at Arkansas State *	7 PM
J. 15	at Arkansas-Little Rock *	7 PM
J. 20	**South Alabama ***	**7 PM**
J. 22	**New Orleans ***	**7 PM**
J. 27	at New Mexico State *	7 PM
J. 29	at Louisiana-Lafayette *	7 PM
F. 3	**Western Kentucky ***	**7 PM**
F. 5	**Florida International ***	**7 PM**
F. 10	**North Texas ***	**7 PM**
F. 12	at Denver *	5 PM
F. 17	**Arkansas State ***	**7 PM**
F. 19	**ESPN Bracket Buster**	**TBA**
F. 24	at Western Kentucky *	7 PM
F. 28	at Florida International *	6 PM
M. 5-8	Sun Belt Championships#	TBA

All game times Central Time
* - Sun Belt Conference Game
# - Denton, Texas
& - San Juan Shootout

Middle Tennessee (0-0) vs. Lambuth University (5-1)

When: November 19, 2004 (7:30 p.m.)
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.- Murphy Center (11,500)
TV: None
Radio: WBOZ FM 104.9 & WMOT FM 89.5 (Dick Palmer, Jan Stauffer)
Series: First meeting
Last Meeting: First meeting
Notes: Middle Tennessee opens the 2004-05 season at home for the second time in as many years ... Lambuth University enters the contest with six games under its belt, having won five, including a win at Division I foe UT-Martin, 98-92 ... The Blue Raiders were the preseason pick of SBC coaches to win the East Division.

Middle Tennessee In Season Openers

Middle Tennessee is 51-30 all-time in season openers and 1-1 under Head Coach Kermit Davis. The Blue Raiders have won 70 percent of their season openers during the past decade, compiling a 7-3 worksheet. Middle Tennessee has won four of its previous five season openers with the lone setback being a 65-63 decision to East Carolina.

Middle Tennessee In Home Openers

Since Murphy Center opened its doors for the start of the 1972-73 season, Middle Tennessee is 28-4 in home openers at the "Glass House." The Blue Raiders are 8-2 in Murphy Center in the previous 10 home openers. Overall, Middle Tennessee is 38-10 in home openers since 1956-57. They are 12-3 in home openers during the past 15 seasons. The Blue Raiders are 1-1 in home openers under Head Coach Kermit Davis. Records of whether the team was home or away prior to the 1956-57 season are incomplete.

MT's Last 10 Home Openers

11/24/03	Covenant College	W, 86-53
11/22/02	East Carolina	L, 65-63
11/17/01	Bryan College	W, 115-59
11/17/00	St. Francis	W, 93-59
11/22/99	Tennessee Temple	W, 69-55
11/16/98	East Tennessee St.	L, 64-59
12/18/97	Carson-Newman	W, 70-54
11/27/96	Montreat	W, 98-52
11/25/95	Indiana State	W, 81-78
11/26/94	North Georgia	W, 72-64

Scouting Lambuth University

Lambuth brings a 5-1 record into Friday night's game against Middle Tennessee with a win at Division I opponent UT-Martin (98-92) included in its early-season success. Lambuth is led by 6-foot-10 center Mark Konecny, a Syracuse transfer averaging 14 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. Ivan Bozovic averages 13.6 points and has dished out 19 assists. Lambuth enters Friday's game averaging 85.2 points per game and is shooting 52 percent from the field. The Eagles are a member of NAIA and play in the Mid-South Conference. They are under the direction of first-year head coach Kevin Burton.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Middle Tennessee			*Ht.*	*Wt.*	*Cl.*	*PPG*	*RPG*	*APG*
F	33	Brian Lake	6-6	210	FR	00.0	0.0	0.0
F	44	Kyle Young	6-10	220	SO	00.0	0.0	0.0
G	23	Michael Cuffee	6-5	200	SR	00.0	0.0	0.0
G	15	Mike Dean	6-3	190	SR	00.0	0.0	0.0
G	3	Bryan Smithson	5-11	168	SO	00.0	0.0	0.0

Lambuth			*Ht.*	*Wt.*	*Cl.*	*PPG*	*RPG*	*APG*
C	12	Mark Konecny	6-10	N/A	JR	14.0	8.6	1.0
F	30	Chris Cole	6-5	N/A	JR	21.6	9.2	1.6
F	24	Bilal Simmons	6-6	N/A	JR	16.4	6.8	4.6
G	5	Ivan Bozovic	6-2	N/A	SR	13.6	2.2	3.8
G	40	Michael Beasley	6-2	N/A	SO	5.8	1.2	1.2

MEDIA INFORMATION

Blue Raiders on Radio

■ All Blue Raider basketball games can be heard on WBOZ FM 104.9 in Rutherford and Cannon counties and all across middle Tennessee on WMOT FM 89.5. Dick Palmer is in his 24th season as the Blue Raiders' play-by-play announcer, while Jan Stauffer is handling the color commentary for the 14th straight year.

Interview Protocol

■ After a 10-minute cooling off period, requested players and head coach Kermit Davis will be available for members of the media The Blue Raider locker room is **CLOSED** both at home and on the road. At home, the interview area is located just off the northwest corner of the playing floor. On the road, requested players and Coach Davis will be brought to an area designated by the home team, or just outside the Blue Raiders' locker room facility. Player requests should be directed to assistant media relations director Tony Stinnett.

Credentials

■ Arrangement for media credentials for the 2004-05 basketball season should be directed to the Athletic Media Relations Office. Requests by accredited media members should be made in writing and submitted on company letterhead to Tony Stinnett. Priority issuance of credentials will be given to daily newspapers and television stations that cover Middle Tennessee basketball on a regular basis. Other credential requests will be fulfilled on a space available basis.

GoBlueRaiders.com

■ Middle Tennessee basketball statistics and notes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at GoBlueRaiders.com. Media are invited to use the official web site for Middle Tennessee athletics for information regarding all Blue Raider athletic teams.

Middle Tennessee Picked To Win SBC East

Middle Tennessee has been picked as the preseason favorite to win the Sun Belt's East Division in a preseason poll of league coaches. It marks the first time the Blue Raiders have been picked first since joining the Sun Belt in 2001. Middle Tennessee received eight of a possible 11 first-place votes and 51 total points to finish ahead of defending East Division champion Arkansas-Little Rock (3 first-place votes, 44 points). Louisiana-Lafayette was a unanimous pick to win the West Division.

SBC Men's Basketball Preseason Poll

East Division			
1.	**Middle Tennessee**	**(8)**	**51**
2.	Arkansas-Little Rock	(3)	44
3.	Arkansas State		31
4.	Western Kentucky		28
5.	Florida International		11
West Division			
1.	Louisiana-Lafayette	(11)	66
2.	South Alabama		43
3.	New Orleans		41
3.	North Texas		41
5.	New Mexico State		21
6.	Denver		19

First-place votes in parentheses

Three Blue Raiders Earn Preseason All-SBC

Middle Tennessee had three players named to the All-SBC Preseason team as voted on by league coaches and media relations directors. Senior guard Mike Dean was named to the league's five-member first-team after leading Middle Tennessee in scoring at 16.2 points per game last season. Senior guard/forward Michael Cuffee and senior center Steve Thomas were named to the third team. Cuffee was among SBC leaders in scoring (12.3) and rebounding (5.8) last season, and he earned All-SBC Tournament honors after a strong showing in the league tournament. Thomas is the only newcomer on the preseason squad. He sat out last season after transferring from the University of Georgia and will become eligible when the Blue Raiders play in the San Juan Shootout, Dec. 20.

COMPARING NUMBERS

MT	*Stat*	*LU*
86.0	Points	85.2
54.0	Rebounds	36.0
14.0	Offensive Rebounds	13.2
22.0	Assists	18.6
4.0	Steals	10.2
1.0	Blocks	3.6
.516	Field Goal Percentage	.516
.000	3-Point FG Percentage	.352
.636	Free Throw Percentage	.680
22.0	Free Throw Attempts	19.4
15.0	Turnovers	20.6

NOTE: MiddleTennessee's stats are from one exhibition game.

All-SBC Preseason Team

First Team		
Mike Dean	**G**	**Middle Tennessee**
Orien Greene	G	Louisiana-Lafayette
Leonard Hopkins	G	North Texas
Bo McCalebb	G	New Orleans
J.J. Montgomery	G	Arkansas State
Second Team		
Erik Benzel	G	Denver
Brandon Freeman	F	Ark-Little Rock
Brian Hamilton	F	Louisiana-Lafayette
Dewarick Spencer	G	Arkansas State
Anthony Winchester	G	Western Kentucky
Third Team		
Michael Cuffee	**G/F**	**Middle Tennessee**
Darius Eason	F	Ark.-Little Rock
Antonio Haynes	G	Western Kentucky
Duane John	G	New Mexico State
Steve Thomas	**C**	**Middle Tennessee**

Smithson Tops In Consecutive Starts

Sophomore point guard Bryan Smithson enters the 2004-05 season with 28 consecutive starts under his belt, which is the longest such streak on the Middle Tennessee basketball team. Smithson came off the bench in his first game as a Blue

2004-05 BLUE RAIDER ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown/Last School	Noteworthy
1	Fats Cuyler	G	6-0	182	Jr.	Leesburg, Fla./Cowley County CC	● First-Team All-Jayhawk Conference at Cowley County
2	Darrio Scott	F	6-6	220	r-Jr.	Lynchburg, Va./George Washington Univ.	● Set to return from season-ending foot injury in 2003-04
3	Bryan Smithson	G	5-11	168	So.	Kennesaw, Ga./North Cobb HS	● 28 consecutive starts is most on team
5	L.T. Lockett	G	6-0	180	r-Jr.	Fairburn, Ga./Western Carolina	● Transferred from Western Carolina and sat out 2003-04
10	Wes Durrant	G	5-10	155	r-So.	Bowling Green, Ky./Warren Central HS	● Saw action in eight games as a redshirt freshman
15	Mike Dean	G	6-3	190	Sr.	Rome, Ga./Univ. of Georgia	● Led MT in scoring with 16.2 ppg during 2003-04
20	Alex Weekes	F	6-8	220	So.	Atlanta, Ga./Berkmar HS	● Set single-game blocks record with 8 against WKU
22	Marcus Morrison	G/F	6-6	205	Jr.	St. Petersburg, Fla./Garden City CC	● Collected 53 steals as a junior at Garden City CC
23	Michael Cuffee	G/F	6-5	200	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa./Neosho County JC	● Averaged 12.3 points and 5.8 rebounds in 2003-04
31	Clint Feher	F	r-Jr.	6-7	210	Chattanooga, Tenn./Eastern Kentucky Univ.	● Transferred from Eastern Kentucky and sat out 2003-04
32	Jonathan Loe	G	Jr.	6-3	180	Memphis, Tenn./Northwest Mississippi CC	● Led NW Miss. CC in points, assists and steals
33	Brian Lake	F	Fr.	6-6	210	Bolivar, Tenn./Bolivar Central HS	● Most Valuable Player of Class AA state tournament
44	Kyle Young	F	6-10	215	r-Fr.	Lewisburg, Tenn./Marshall County HS	● Earned 20 starts during redshirt freshman season
50	Keith Christmas	F	6-6	225	r-Fr.	Gary, Ind./West Side HS	● Improving forward came on strong at end of 2003-04
55	Steve Thomas	C	6-9	245	r-Sr.	Carrolton, Ga./University of Georgia	● Becomes eligible for the San Juan Shootout

Raider and then started the next 28 games. The Kennesaw, Ga., native averaged 30 minutes a game during his freshman season and was among SBC leaders in assists and steals. Senior guard Mike Dean has the second longest streak of consecutive starts with 23. The high-scoring marksman has started every game in which he has played during his Blue Raider career, but Dean missed the two games in the SBC Tournament with a broken hand and he missed the team's first four games of the 2003-04 season due to the NCAA transfer rule. Senior guard/forward Michael Cuffee has started 22 consecutive games entering the 2004-05 season, and he has earned starts in 25 of the 26 games he has played at Middle Tennessee.

There For the Start

Name	Consecutive Starts
Bryan Smithson	28
Mike Dean	23
Michael Cuffee	22
Alex Weekes	5

Davis Inks Four During Early Signing

Middle Tennessee Head Coach Kermit Davis announced the signing of four players to national letters-of-intent during the NCAA Early Signing Period, which concluded Nov. 17. The Blue Raiders signed four prep standouts during the week-long period, including Darren Avery, a 6-foot-3 guard from Corinth, Miss., Deno Hair, a 6-foot-8 power forward from Picayune, Miss., Uriah Hethington, a 6-foot-9 center from Cairo, Ga., and Kevin Kanaskie, a 6-foot-2 point guard from State College, Pa. Avery is the No. 6-rated prep prospect in Mississippi and averaged 14.4 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.8 assists, while shooting 52 percent from the field and 30 percent from 3-point range as a junior. Hair averaged 12 points, eight rebounds, three blocks and three steals as a junior at Picayune Memorial High School as a junior. He has been named to the Mississippi "Dandy Dozen," which includes the 12 best prep players in the state. Hethington averaged 12 points and 10 rebounds for Cairo High School and is listed as a "Dandy Dozen" by the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* in Georgia. Kanaskie brings tremendous skills to the Blue Raider program and is a true point guard with a knack for making those around him better.

Blue Raiders To Play In ESPN Bracket Buster

Middle Tennessee will play in the third annual ESPN Bracket Buster, Feb. 19, 2005. The Blue Raiders were awarded a home game in the men's college basketball event against an opponent to be named at a later date. Fellow Sun Belt members Arkansas-Little Rock, New Orleans and Western Kentucky join the Blue Raiders in the 64-team, 13-conference field. Pairings for the contests wil be announced Feb. 3, 2005. A total of 11 of the 32 games will be televised, including six games on ESPN or ESPN2, and the other five games will be televised on ESPN's Full Court and on regional and local syndication. The remaining 21 games will not be televised. The evaluation and pairings of teams for the 11-game ESPN television package will be made by the staff of ESPN, in consultation with conference commissioners of participating leagues. The Sun Belt is 3-1 in the Bracket Buster during the previous two years. In addition to four representatives from the Sun Belt, the Horizon League, Mid-American, Missouri Valley, Western Athletic, America East, Big Sky, Big West, Colonial Athletic, Metro Atlantic, Mid-Continent, Ohio Valley and Southern Conference have members participating in 2005. Two non-conference foes on the 2004-05 Middle Tennessee schedule - Virginia Commonwealth and Austin Peay - are among the 64-team field.

Anniversary Of MT Championship Teams

This season marks the 30-year anniversary of Middle Tennessee's first conference championship and NCAA Tournament team in 1974-75, as well as the 20-year anniversary of the 1984-85 championship squad that reached the NCAA Tournament. The 1974-75 Blue Raiders, under the direction of Head Coach Jimmy Earle, won the Ohio Valley Conference regular-season and tournament titles and became the first Middle Tennessee basketball team to participate in the NCAA Tournament. The 1974-75 squad posted a 23-5 overall record and lost to Oregon State, 78-67, in the NCAA Tournament. The 1984-85 Blue Raiders won the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title and automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament under first-year coach Bruce Stewart. The squad fashioned a 17-14 overall mark and lost to North Carolina, 76-57, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

MT's Conference Championships

Regular Season

1975 (OVC)
1978 (OVC) *
1986 (OVC) *
1987 (OVC)
1988 (OVC)

* - co-championship

Tournament

1975 (OVC)
1977 (OVC)
1982 (OVC)
1985 (OVC)
1989 (OVC)

Blue Raiders Win Exhibition By 24

Five Middle Tennessee players, led by Michael Cuffee's game-high 18 points, scored in double figures and the Blue Raiders erupted for 52 second-half points en route to an 86-62 win against North Alabama in the team's only exhibition game of the preseason at Murphy Center (11/12). Cuffee led Middle Tennessee with a double-double, scoring 18 points on 9-of-15 shooting from the field and yanking 13 rebounds. Freshman Brian Lake (14 points), sophomore Kyle Young (13 points), senior Mike Dean (10 points) and newcomer Marcus Morrison (10 points) all reached double figures for the Blue Raiders in front of a boisterous crowd of 1,811. Middle Tennessee shot 55 percent for the game and limited

SUN BELT

EAST DIVISION

Team	SBC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
Arkansas-Little Rock	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Arkansas State	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Florida International	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Middle Tennessee	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Western Kentucky	0-0	.000	0-0	.000

WEST DIVISION

Team	SBC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
Denver	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
New Mexico State	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
North Texas	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
South Alabama	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
New Orleans	0-0	.000	0-1	.000

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 19

Angelo State at North Texas 7 p.m.
Florida Atlantic at Florida International 7 p.m.
Lambuth at Middle Tennessee 7:30 p.m.
Tennessee State at Western Kentucky 8:30 p.m.
BCA Classic (Raleigh, N.C.)
- New Orleans vs. TBA TBA
BP Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)
- New Mexico State vs. TBA TBA
LSU Tournament (Baton Rouge, La.)
- Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Louisiana Tech 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20

South Alabama at Old Dominion 6 p.m.
Southern Arkansas at Ark.-Little Rock 7 p.m.
Centenary at Arkansas State 7:05 p.m.
BP Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)
- New Mexico State vs. TBA TBA

Sunday, Nov. 21

Hofstra at Florida International 1 p.m.
North Texas at Alabama 3:30 p.m.
North Dakota State at Denver 5 p.m.
BP Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)
- New Mexico State vs. TBA TBA
LSU Tournament (Baton Rouge, La.)
- Louisiana-Lafayette vs. LSU/Tulane 3 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 22

BP Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)
- New Mexico State vs. TBA TBA

Tuesday, Nov. 23

Western Kentucky at Georgia 6 p.m.
Arkansas-Little Rock at Oklahoma State 7 p.m.
Arkansas State at Memphis 7 p.m.
UNC Wilmington at North Texas 7 p.m.
Middle Tennessee at Rice 7:35 p.m.

North Alabama to just 35 percent. The Blue Raiders had 22 assists and 15 turnovers, while forcing 10 Lions turnovers. Middle Tennessee also won the battle of the boards, 54-34.

Looking To Pick Up Where He Left Off
Senior guard/forward Michael Cuffee enters the 2004-05 season as Middle Tennessee's hottest player after putting together a strong finish to the 2003-04 season. The Philadelphia, Pa., native averaged 17.2 points and 6.6 rebounds in the team's final five games last season. During that stretch he connected on 57 percent (30-of-53) of his field goal attempts, 56 percent (9-of-16) of his 3-point attempts and 71 percent (17-of-24) from the free-throw line. His high-point production during that stretch was a 22-point performance against Western Kentucky in the quarterfinals of the Sun Belt championships.

Dean Steady From Beyond The Arc
Senior guard Mike Dean has hit at least one 3-pointer in all 23 games of his Blue Raider career entering the 2004-05 season. He finished last season sixth on the 3-point field goals made list with 62, despite missing six games (four due to the NCAA transfer rule and two to injury). The most treys Dean hit in one game was seven (7-of-12 vs. Arkansas State). He has hit five or more 3-pointers in a game four different times.

Blue Raider Debuts Likely Friday
Middle Tennessee's roster features four newcomers from the 2004 signing class who expect to make their Blue Raider debuts against Lambuth in the season opener - junior college transfers Fats Cuyler, Jonathan Loe and Marcus Morrison, and freshman Brian Lake. Lake earned the start in Middle Tennessee's exhibition win against North Alabama and was impressive with 14 points on 6-of-9 shooting and eight rebounds in 15 minutes of action. Morrison finished with 10 points, eight rebounds and four assists in the team's win.

Blue Raiders Looking For A '3-Peat'
Middle Tennessee enters the 2004-05 basketball season in search of three straight winning seasons for the first time since the 1995-96 through 1998-99 seasons. In fact, the back-to-back winning seasons produced during the past two years under Head Coach Kermit Davis marked the first time Middle Tennessee had enjoyed consecutive winning seasons since the 1996-97, 1997-98 seasons.

Loads Of Scoring, Rebounding Return
Middle Tennessee returns 62 percent of its scoring, 66 percent of its rebounding and 66 percent of its assists from last year's team. In Sun Belt games only, Middle Tennessee returns 67 percent of its scoring, 65 percent of its rebounding and 60 percent of its assists. The Blue Raiders did lose two of their top four rebounders from last season in Tommy Gunn and Steven Jackson. Middle Tennessee also lost three of the top five assists leaders from a season ago.

Replacing A Legend
For the first time since the 2000-01 season, Middle Tennessee will open the campaign without Tommy Gunn wearing a Blue Raider uniform. Gunn, a four-year starter and three-time All-Sun Belt selection, saw his eligibility expire following a brilliant Middle Tennessee career in 2003-04. The Syracuse, N.Y., native completed his career No. 3 on the all-time scoring list at Middle Tennessee with 1,528 points. Gunn also is second on the career 3-point field goals made list (185), second in career steals (156) and 12th in career assists (226).

This 'N' That

MT's All-Time Record	933-884 (.513)
MT's All-Time NCAA Record (6 app.)	2-6
Consecutive Games with 3PT Field Goal	246
Consecutive Games/Opponents Under 100	122
100-Point Games in MT History	63
100-Point Games Under Davis	0
MT's Record vs Top 25 Teams under Davis	0-2
MT's Record from 1913-30	73-37 (.664)
MT's Record from 1931-40	49-80 (.380)
MT's Record from 1941-50	69-68 (.504)
MT's Record from 1951-60	103-145 (.415)
MT's Record from 1961-70	101-133 (.432)
MT's Record from 1971-80	162-105 (.607)
MT's Record from 1981-90	178-120 (.597)
MT's Record from 1991-00	146-135 (.520)
MT's Record from 2001-Present	52-62 (.456)

Up Next For Middle Tennessee
Middle Tennessee will return to action Tuesday when it travels to Houston, Texas to face WAC preseason favorite Rice. The Owls put together a 22-11 mark in 2003-04 and finished tied for third in the WAC. Rice plays its season opener at home against Mobile University Saturday.

The Last Time a Blue Raider ...

Scored 30+ Points
Mike Dean (30) vs. Arkansas State (1/15/04)
Scored 40+ Points
Milton Dean (41) vs. Southeast Missouri (1/14/94)
Grabbed 15+ Rebounds
Lee Nosse vs. New Mexico State (15) (1/10/02)
Grabbed 20+ Rebounds
Napoleon Rhodes vs. UNC-Greensboro (20) (11/30/02)
Made 5+ Three-pointers
Mike Dean vs. New Mexico State (5) (1/29/04)
Tallied 10+ Assists
Keith Connor vs Covenant (10) (11/24/03)
Had a Double-Double
Tommy Gunn vs. Florida International (12 pts., 10 reb.) (3/01/04)

The Last Time the Blue Raiders ...

Scored 100+ Points
vs. Bryan College (115-59) (11/17/01)
Allowed 100+ Points
vs. Tennessee Tech (108-104) (2/12/00)
Scored 50 or Less Points
vs. New Mexico State (45) (1/10/02)
Held a Team Under 50 Points
vs.Denver (48) (2/14/04)
Shot Better Than 55%
vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (.585) (3/08/04)
Held Opponent Under 40%
vs. Western Kentucky (.385) (3/07/04)
Beat an Opponent by 20+ Points
vs. Tennessee Wesleyan (+43) (12/13/03)
Had 45+ Rebounds
vs. Tennessee Wesleyan (45) (12/13/03)
Had 20+ Assists
vs. Tennessee Wesleyan (23) (12/13/03)

Kermit Davis

Head Coach ● Mississippi State, 1982 ● 3rd Season ● 33-26 (.559)

Toughness, accountability, intensity, defense, and hard work were intangibles on which Kermit Davis said he would build the Middle Tennessee program when he was hired as the 19th men's head basketball coach in April, 2002. It didn't take long for Davis' blueprint for success to unfold, as the successful coach has been able to restore pride and set the Blue Raiders on a successful course in his first two seasons at Middle Tennessee.

Prior to Davis' arrival, Middle Tennessee had endured losing seasons in three of the previous four years, but the energetic and highly-successful Davis quickly changed the fortunes and began a Blue Raider revival. He has produced a 33-26 mark in his first two seasons, including a 29-18 record since the start of Sun Belt play in January, 2003. Not bad for a program that had enjoyed just one conference tournament win in the two years prior to his arrival.

The Blue Raider Nation would have to be patient, Davis warned; because winning programs aren't built overnight. It takes time, solid recruiting classes, and the installation of a philosophy to ultimately reach long-term goals. But in two short years under Davis, Middle Tennessee has been in the Sun Belt championship hunt into the final week of each season. The Blue Raiders reached the Sun Belt Tournament title game in 2003, their first appearance in a conference tournament championship since 1989; and they missed the chance to make it two league title games in as many years when they dropped a 70-66 decision to Louisiana-Lafayette in 2004 in the semifinals.

In his first season as the Blue Raiders' head coach, Davis inherited a group of players who had never enjoyed success as members of the Sun Belt. The 2002-03 Blue Raiders were picked fourth (of five) teams in the Sun Belt's East Division, and eighth of 11 teams overall. Heading into the final week of the regular-season, Middle Tennessee remained in the championship hunt. For his efforts, Davis was named the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year, marking the second time in five years as a Division I head coach he had been so honored.

While Davis' first team surprised many by reaching the finals of the Sun Belt Tournament and putting together the most wins for a Blue Raider squad (16) since the 1997-98 campaign, his second Blue Raider team had to be even more surprising.

Middle Tennessee entered the 2003-04 season with only one returning starter and four letterwinners from Davis' initial Blue Raider team, but the proven winner molded his squad into a championship contender by mid-season. The Blue Raiders increased their number of wins and had fans coming through the turnstiles in record numbers with an exciting style of play.

Davis' players not only have been winners on the court, but they have been successful in the classroom, as well. Nine of the 12 seniors in the Middle Tennessee program since Davis' hiring have received their degree. The other three are either playing professionally or are in NBA camps.

Like all successful coaches, Davis has been victorious by recruiting players who fit the personality of the team and take ownership of their squad. The previous two recruiting classes have been ranked No. 1 in the Sun Belt by *Hoop Scoop* magazine, and each has been rated among the Top 25 in the nation, including a No. 11 signing class in 2004.

Prior to being named the head coach at Middle Tennessee, Davis spent five seasons as the associate head coach at LSU under head coach John Brady. After two seasons of putting the pieces together, the Tigers captured the SEC title in 2000 and went on to an appearance in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. The Tigers returned to the postseason in 2002 with a trip to the National Invitational Tournament. In the three years immediately preceding Davis' arrival in Murfreesboro, LSU averaged 20-plus wins per season.

KERMIT DAVIS HEAD COACHING STOPS

Season	School	Record
1984-85	Southwest Miss. CC	17-9
1985-86	Southwest Miss. CC	22-11
1988-89	Idaho	25-6
1989-90	Idaho	25-6
1990-91	Texas A&M	8-21
1993-94	Chipola JC	27-5
1996-97	Idaho	13-17
2002-03	Middle Tennessee	16-14
2003-04	Middle Tennessee	17-12
Totals	**9 years**	**157-84**
Div. I	**6 years**	**104-76**

MT Under Davis

	Overall	04-05
Overall Record	33-26	0-0
Home	19-8	0-0
Away	10-17	0-0
Neutral	4-1	0-0
vs. Sun Belt	20-13	0-0
Home	9-5	0-0
Away	8-6	0-0
Tourney	3-2	0-0
Nonconference	13-13	0-0
Home	9-3	0-0
Away	1-10	0-0
Neutral	2-0	0-0
In Overtime	2-2	0-0
Leading at the Half	28-4	0-0
Leading with 5:00 Left	28-5	0-0
vs. Ranked Opponents	0-2	0-0
In Televised Games	4-6	0-0
MT Shoots >50%	12-3	0-0
MT Shoots <50%	21-23	0-0
Opponent Shoots >50%	3-9	0-0
Opponent Shoots <50%	30-17	0-0
MT Outshoots Opp.	26-2	0-0
MT Outrebounds Opp.	25-8	0-0
Opp. Outrebounds MT	7-14	0-0
MT Attempts More FTs	23-4	0-0
Opp. Attempts More FTs	8-22	0-0
In November	2-4	0-0
In December	8-7	0-0
In January	10-8	0-0
In February	9-4	0-0
In March	4-3	0-0
In April	0-0	0-0
Final Margin 10 or less pts.	18-15	0-0
Final Margin > 20 points	6-4	0-0
MT Scores < 60 points	1-7	0-0
MT Scores 60+ points	8-14	0-0
MT Scores 70+ points	16-5	0-0
MT Scores 80+ points	6-0	0-0
MT Scores 90+ points	2-0	0-0
MT Scores 100+ points	0-0	0-0

Before LSU, Davis spent one season as the head coach at the University of Idaho; however, his stint with the Vandals was his second tour of duty in Moscow. He also served as the school's head coach from 1989-90. During his three years as the head coach at Idaho, Davis compiled a 63-29 record, the best three-year total in the program's history. Davis posted two of the best single-season tallies in school history during his first two seasons at Idaho as well, turning in 25-6 marks in both of those seasons (1988-89, 1989-90).

His Idaho squad won the Big Sky championship in 1989 and went on to capture the league's tournament crown and a berth into the NCAA Tournament, as well. For his efforts, Davis was named Big Sky Coach of the Year. History repeated itself in 1990 when Davis once again led the Vandals to the Big Sky title in both the regular season and tournament, garnering yet another NCAA Tournament berth. In fact, Davis himself made history when he became the Vandals' head coach in 1988. Upon his hiring, Davis was the youngest Division I head coach in the nation at age 28.

It was not the first time Davis had been the youngest head coach in the country. When he was hired as the head coach at Southwest Mississippi Junior College in 1984, he became the youngest junior college coach in the nation at age 24. His youth served him well at Southwest Mississippi, as he put together a 39-20 record in two seasons. His 1986 squad won 22 games, posting the school's first 20-win season in 17 years.

His success at the junior college level landed him a spot on Tim Floyd's staff at Idaho, where Davis served as an assistant for two years prior to being named the program's head coach.

After spending two seasons as the head coach at Idaho, Davis went on to become the head coach at Texas A&M for the 1990-91 campaign. From Texas A&M, Davis moved on to serve as associate head coach at Chipola Junior College for two seasons before ascending to the top spot for the 1993-94 campaign. During his season as the team's head coach, Chipola finished the season ranked No. 4 in the national polls and posted a 27-5 record, giving the team the second-most wins in school history.

From Chipola, Davis moved on to serve as associate head coach at Utah State from 1995-96. At Utah State, Davis coached under current Southern Mississippi coach Larry Eustachy, and the pair combined to win the Big West title in 1995.

Davis' rapid ascent up the coaching ladder is no coincidence. He has been around the game his entire life, growing up watching one of the preeminent coaches in the country operate on a daily basis. Kermit Davis, Sr., was one of the most respected college coaches in the nation, and the younger Davis spent many hours around his dad in the gym and even on the bench during games.

After completing his playing career at Mississippi State, Davis began his coaching career at his alma mater as a graduate assistant on Bob Boyd's staff from 1983-84. Davis earned his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State in 1982 and then obtained his master's degree there in 1984.

KERMIT DAVIS VS ...

Alabama	0-1
Alabama State	2-0
Arkansas	0-3
Arkansas-Little Rock	0-4
Arkansas State	4-0
Auburn	0-1
Austin Peay	1-1
Boise State	4-3
Baylor	1-1
Brooklyn College	1-0
Cal Poly	0-1
Cal State-Fullerton	1-0
Centenary	2-0
Chattanooga	0-1
Christian Brothers	1-0
Cincinnati	0-1
Covenant College	1-0
Denver	3-0
East Carolina	0-1
Eastern Michigan	0-1
Eastern Oregon State	1-0
Eastern Washington	6-0
Florida International	4-0
Gonzaga	2-1
Hawaii-Hilo	1-0
Houston	0-2
Idaho State	6-0
IP-Fort Wayne	2-0
IUPUI	1-0
Kansas	0-1
Kansas State	0-1
Kennesaw State	1-0
Kent State	1-1
Lewis-Clark State	1-0
Liberty	0-1
Long Beach State	1-0
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-3
Louisville	0-1
Mercer	1-0
Montana	4-1
Montana State	4-1
Murray State	0-2
Nebraska	2-0
Nevada	2-4
New Mexico State	1-3
New Orleans	2-0
North Texas	3-1
Northern Arizona	4-0
Oklahoma	0-1
Pacific	0-1
Portland	1-0
Purdue	0-2
Rice	0-2
Robert Morris	0-1
St. Martin's	1-0
Sam Houston State	1-0
Simon Fraser	3-0
SMU	0-2
South Alabama	2-2
South Carolina State	1-0
Southern Utah	2-1
Southwest Missouri State	0-1
TCU	0-2
Tennessee Tech	0-2
Tennessee Wesleyan	1-0
Texas	0-2
Texas College	1-0
Texas Southern	1-1
Texas Tech	2-1
UC-Irvine	1-0
UC-San Diego	1-0
UC-Santa Barbara	0-1
UNC-Greensboro	0-1
UNLV	0-1
Utah State	0-2
UT Martin	1-0
VCU	0-1
Western Montana	1-0
Western Kentucky	3-3
Washington	0-1
Washington State	3-1
Weber State	3-1
Whitman	1-0
Whitworth	1-0
Willamette	1-0
Wyoming	1-1
Totals	**104-76**

PERSONAL

➤**BORN:** December 14, 1959
➤**HIGH SCHOOL:** Starkville (MS) HS
➤**COLLEGE:** Mississippi State
B.A. in Business Administration, 1982
M.A. in Teaching, 1984
➤**FAMILY:** Wife, Betty. Daughters Ally (16) and Claire (12)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

➤1989 Big Sky Regular Season/Tourney Champs/NCAA Regional appearance
➤1989 Big Sky Coach of the Year
➤1990 Big Sky Regular Season/Tourney Champs/NCAA Regional appearance
➤1990 Big Sky Coach of the Year
➤1994 No. 4 final ranking at Chipola
➤2000 SEC Championship/Sweet 16
➤2003 Sun Belt Coach of the Year

COACHING STOPS

➤1983-84	Mississippi State
➤1985-86	Southwest Mississippi CC
➤1987-90	Idaho
➤1991	Texas A&M
➤1992-94	Chipola JC
➤1995-96	Utah State
➤1997	Idaho
➤1998-02	LSU
➤2003-present	Middle Tennessee

NOTEWORTHY

➤Youngest junior college coach in the country at Southwest JC at age 24
➤Youngest Division I head coach in the nation at Idaho at age 28
➤Tabbed coach of the year three times in six seasons as a Division I head coach