

Middle Tennessee vs. Western Kentucky
May 26, 2005
Sun Belt Championships

RAIDERS-TOPPERS PLAY AGAIN IN TOURNEY: Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky will face each other for the third straight season in the Sun Belt Championships, but in a much different setting. The last two years the teams have played in the championship game of the tournament, with each winning once. The Blue Raiders won, 8-5, in the 2003 title game in Lafayette, La., and the Hilltoppers returned the favor last season in Mobile, Ala., with a 14-4 triumph.

LONG-RUNNING SERIES: The Blue Raiders and Hilltoppers have a long-running series, with the two teams meeting every year since 1982. Since the start of the 1976 season, Middle Tennessee leads the series, 42-40. All three of the neutral site meetings have taken place in the SBC Championships, with the Blue Raiders winning two of those three outings (2001, 2003).

PETERSON, MURRIE MEETING FOR 57TH TIME: The two head coaches, Steve Peterson and Joel Murrie, will be meeting for the 57th time as either assistant or head coaches at their respective schools. Both were assistant coaches in 1978, and began facing each other again in 1985 when Peterson came back to Middle Tennessee as an assistant. Murrie leads the series, 29-27, in all of the meetings. As head coaches, Peterson is 25-21 against Murrie since the beginning of the 1988 campaign.

SERIES JUST AS EVEN IN SUN BELT: The series between the two clubs is just as even since Middle Tennessee joined the Sun Belt, with the Blue Raiders winning the series, 10-8. Middle Tennessee is 3-3 at home and 4-5 in Bowling Green in the series, and leads 2-1 in neutral meetings. The Blue Raiders won 2-of-3 in the series this year in Bowling Green, with Matt Scott and Tyler Copeland picking up victories on Friday and Sunday.