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Soccer signing class rated among region's best by Soccer Buzz

Howells regarded as one of top 12 International signees

MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Blue Raider soccer coach Aston Rhoden has completed the 2007 signing class with the addition of Emily Snowdon, who has signed a national letter of intent to play at Middle Tennessee.

The latest signing comes on the heels of Middle Tennessee's 2007 recruiting class being ranked in the SoccerBuzz.com Central Region Top 25 for the third consecutive year.



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The class, which includes eight newcomers, is ranked 24th regionally and also boasts of one of the top International recruits in 2007 in defender Francesca Howells. The defender who is a member of the Wales U-19 team is listed as one of the top 12 International recruits in 2007, according to SoccerBuzz.com.

"Our goal for this recruiting period was to add depth to every position in our program without compromising the quality of our team," Rhoden said. "This class has a player from every position and most of the players are comfortable playing two positions. In addition, we have increased our team speed, tactical awareness and mentality. Despite their youth, this will be an exciting group of players to watch develop over the next four years. I am very pleased with the work our staff, team, and administration have done to secure such a talented group."

Snowdon will help impact the one area where Middle Tennessee was hit hardest by graduation after losing two four-year starters at the defender position in 2006 in **Katy Rayburn** and **Sara Wohlhueter**.

"Emily is a tenacious defender with outstanding pace," Rhoden said. "She is a great leader on the field and has a strong work ethic. She will provide us with tremendous depth on defense."

The 2007 signing class includes Snowdon, Vanessa Mueggler, a forward/midfielder from Quebec, Canada; Bethany Bertovic, a defender/midfielder from Birmingham, Ala.; Kela Casiple, a goalkeeper from Miami, Fla.; Jaimee Cooper, a midfielder from Hixson, Tenn.; Kelly Downs, a forward from Hixson, Tenn.; Emily Harris, a defender/midfielder from Knoxville, Tenn.; and Howells, a defender from Swansea, Wales.

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