

March 17, 2008

Blue Raiders host Western Carolina in WNIT Squads to meet for second time this season

MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee will host Western Carolina Wednesday at 7 p.m. in a first-round Women's NIT contest, as the 48-team field for the postseason tournament was announced late Monday evening. Tickets for the game may be purchased through the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The Blue Raiders and Catamounts played earlier this season in Murfreesboro, with WCU claiming a 77-71 victory on December 2. It was only the second-ever meeting between the two schools and the first since 1991. The winner of Wednesday's game plays at Kentucky on Friday at 7 p.m. ET.

This is Middle Tennessee's third appearance in the WNIT and fifth consecutive postseason appearance. The Blue Raiders lost in the WNIT at Memphis in 1999 and at Indiana in 2001.

Middle Tennessee enters the contest 21-11 overall after posting a 14-4 Sun Belt Conference record and finishing second in the SBC East Division. The Blue Raiders reached the SBC Tournament championship game for the sixth straight year before falling in the finals last week.

This year's WNIT field features five teams from the Big 10 and four teams each from the Big East and SEC. Other conferences with multiple teams in the field include the Big 12 and Missouri Valley with three each, as well as the Sun Belt, Atlantic 10, ACC and Colonial with two apiece.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.womensnit.com or GoBlueRaiders.com.

Here are the 48 teams in the tournament:

Automatic Berths

American (Patriot)
 Arkansas-Little Rock (Sun Belt)
 Boise State (WAC)
 Boston College (ACC)
 Bowling Green (Mid-American)
 Charlotte (Atlantic 10)
 Colorado (Big 12)
 Dartmouth (Ivy)
 Evansville (Missouri Valley)
 Florida Gulf Coast (Atlantic Sun)
 Gonzaga (West Coast)
 Idaho State (Big Sky)
 Iona (Metro Atlantic)
 James Madison (Colonial)
 Kentucky (SEC)
 Marquette (Big East)



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(WNIT) 

Michigan State (Big Ten)
North Carolina A&T (MEAC)
Quinnipiac (Northeast)
Prairie View A&M (SWAC)
Radford (Big South)
South Dakota State (Summit)
Southeast Missouri (Ohio Valley)
Southern Miss (C-USA)
TCU (Mountain West)
Texas State (Southland)
UC Davis (Big West)
Vermont (America East)
Western Carolina (Southern)
Wisconsin-Green Bay (Horizon)

At-large Berths

Dayton
Drake
Creighton
Florida
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Michigan
Mississippi State

Middle Tennessee

N.C. State
South Carolina
South Florida
St. John's
Texas Tech
Villanova
VCU
Wisconsin

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