2008 Blue Raider Soccer

Next Match: Jacksonville State - Away - 6:30 PM

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This week in Middle Tennessee soccer...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					Away match Jacksonville State Time: 6:30 PM	

News & Notes

JACKSONVILLE STATE GAMECOCKS: Middle Tennessee and Jacksonville State are meeting for the seventh time in school history. The last meeting occured on September 3, 2006 when the Blue Raiders defeated the JSU 4-1. The Julie Davis-led Gamecocks return six of their 11 starters and just ten players overall from last year's squad that finished 4-12-1. They played to a 5-1 loss and the Under-17 Mexican National Team on August 15.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "Jacksonville State will be very disciplined and organized, as well as being tough to break down defensively. They should have some weapons up top that may create problems for us and I looking forward to beginning the season."

THRELKELD RECOGNIZED: Junior forward Jennifer Threlkeld was selected to the Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference squad for the first time in her career after finishing the 2008 as one of the top players in the conference. The talented forward led the team and ranked fifth in the Sun Belt Conference in goals (9) in 17 matches played. She also picked up numerous national and conference accolades including being named to the Soccer Buzz National Elite Team of the Week as well as being honored as the Sun Belt Player of the Week on September 11. The Carrollton, Texas native ranks among the top 10 all-time in school history for points, goals and assists entering just her third season.

CASIPLE ONE OF NATION'S BEST: Sophomore goalkeeper Kela Casiple finished 2007 as one of the nation's best netminders despite being in just her first year of collegiate play. The Miami, Fla. native ranked second in the nation in save percentage (0.896) and 12th in goals-against average (0.521).

THE MIX: Middle Tennessee soccer is poised for a breakout season as the return of key veterans coupled with one of the largest recruiting classes in program history has the Blue Raiders full of strong expectations. The squad returns 15 players from last year but despite the high number, only seven players have three years or more experience at Blue Raider Field. MT welcomes 12

Match Facts

Match: Blue Raiders at Jacksonville State
Location: Jacksonville, Ala. (JSU Soccer Field)
Series history: Series tied 3-3
Last meeting: W, 4-1 (2006)

2008 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
A. 16	Austin Peay (Exhibition)	W, 3-1
A. 23	at Jacksonville State	6:30 PM
A. 29	Vanderbilt	6:30 PM
A. 31	Belmont	1 PM
S. 5	Texas Tech#	6:30 PM
S. 7	High Point#	1:30 PM
S. 12	at Tulsa^	7 PM
S. 14	vs. Oral Roberts^	11 AM
S. 19	Ole Miss	6:30 PM
S. 26	at Florida International*	6 PM
S. 28	at Florida Atlantic*	11 AM
O. 3	Troy*	6:30 PM
O. 5	South Alabama*	1 PM
O. 10	at Arkansas State*	4 PM
O. 12	at Arkansas-Little Rock*	1 PM
O. 17	Louisiana-Monroe*	6:30 PM
O. 19	Louisiana-Lafayette*	1 PM
O. 24	at North Texas*	7 PM
O. 26	at Denver*	1 PM
O. 31	Western Kentucky*	6 PM
N. 5-8	Sun Belt Tournament	TBD

- MT Classic (Murfreesboro, Tenn.)
^ - Tulsa Soccer Classic (Tulsa, Okla.)
* - Sun Belt Conference match
All matches listed in Central Time Zone

Middle Tennessee vs. Jacksonville State

new faces into the fold.

HOME COOKING: Middle Tennessee enjoys one of their most competitive home schedules in program history this season, including taking on local rival and Southeastern Conference foe Vanderbilt to open the home slate on August 29. The Blue Raiders also play host to Texas Tech and Ole Miss at Blue Raider Field in 2008.

RAIDERS PICKED FOURTH: Middle Tennessee received 109 points for fourth place in the 2008 Preseason Coaches Poll. Two-time defending conference tournament champion Denver received nine first-place votes and 141 points overall to lead the balloting. North Texas, voted second in the poll, received the other two top votes.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "It is great to know where your peers have voted you to finish within the conference and we will strive to exceed everyone's expectations during the coming season"

DEPTH IN GOAL: Goalkeeping is one of the most important positions on the soccer field and it is one that the Blue Raiders have no need to worry about during the coming season. They return two talented goalkeepers in Kela Casiple and Erynn Muray, both whom have acquitted themselves well during the preseason.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "It's great to finally have depth at this position. Erynn is going into her junior season and has shown signs in preseason camp of what she did her first year here. Kela was great last year during her freshman season and it looks like she is picking up where she left off."

THE BACKLINE: Veterans Nenita Burgess and Elise Hutter will look to lead a young, but talented back line, along with sophomores Fran Howells, Bethany Bertovic, Emily Snowdon and Emily Harris. Newcomers Jenna Bowers, Elisabeth Sikes, Jessica Heckman, and Charity Blair will make this a very competitive group as all are expected to challenge for a starting position.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "We now have depth in our defense. Several of our young players have grown more confident and will now be solid contributors to the team. The group had a much better understanding of our defensive schemes after the spring season and will be a fun group to watch over the next few years."

Blue Raider Quickfacts

Location	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Head Coach	Aston Rhoden
Founded	1911	Record at MT/Year	73-37/6th year
Enrollment	23,246	Career Record	112-87-13/11th year
Nickname	Blue Raiders	Assistant Coach	Dr. Adam Sayers
Colors	Royal Blue & White	Graduate Assistant	Debs Brereton
Mascot	Lightning	2007 Record	10-6-4/7-2-2 SBC
Conference	Sun Belt	Secretary	Roxanne Forth
Affiliation	NCAA Division I	Ath. Communications Head	Mark Owens
Field	Blue Raider Field	Ath. Communication Contact	David Powell
President	Dr. Sidney A. McPhee	Athletic Trainer	Katie Mellen
Faculty Representative	Terry Whiteside	Student Assistant	William Keene
Director of Athletics	Chris Massaro	Athletics Phone	(615) 904-2450

Sun Belt Notes

2008 PRESEASON CONFERENCE POLL

1. Denver (9) 141
2. North Texas (2) 128
3. Western Kentucky 115
4. **Middle Tennessee 109**
5. Florida Atlantic 97
6. Louisiana-Lafayette 78
7. South Alabama 69
8. UALR 53
9. FIU 52
10. Louisiana-Monroe 37
11. Arkansas State 33
12. Troy 22

2008 PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE

Forward
Kelli Jestes (ULL, So.)
Callie Oliver (ULL, Sr.)
Jen Threlkeld (MT, Jr.)
Brittany Cleveland (NT, Sr.)
Tiara Smith (USA, Jr.)

Midfield
Lizzy Carlson (DU, Jr.)
Taryn Hemmings (DU, Sr.)
Kendall Juett (NT, So.)

Defense
Jessi Keller (DU, Sr.)
Janeke Simpkins (FAU, Sr.)
Morgan Thomas (WKU, Jr.)

Goalkeeper
Mackenzie Snyder (DU, Jr.)

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kendall Juett (NT, So.)

SUN BELT PLAYER OF THE WEEK (8/25-8/31)

To Be Announced

Sun Belt Standings

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

August 22

TEAM	CONFERENCE		OVERALL	
Louis`iana-Lafayette	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Troy	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Western Kentucky	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Louisiana-Monroe	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
North Texas	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Florida Atlantic	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
South Alabama	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Florida International	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Middle Tennessee	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Arkansas-Little Rock	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Arkansas State	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Denver	0-0	.000	0-0	.000

Middle Tennessee vs. Jacksonville State

MIDDLE OF THE PARK: The midfielders will be young but versatile this season. With a group of seasoned veterans and a wealth of new talent, the Blue Raiders will be able to rely on the tremendous depth at the position. Sophomores Jaimee Cooper, Vanessa Mueggler and Sarah Beth Lee return as key members of the midfield, while incoming freshmen Laura Lamberth, Heather McDonnell, and Hope Suominen will make the midfield position even more competitive and versatile.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "We have a strong mixture of creative personalities in midfield. This group consists of a few players who are strong defensively as well as several extremely create players."

LOOKING FORWARD: The forward position has been totally revamped and should be one of the most competitive coming into the season. Returnees Jen Threlkeld, Kelly Downs, Kim Farrant, and Caitlin Reeves will be joined by newcomers Luisa Moscoso, Shan Jones, Heather McDonnell, Ashli Julien, Lynsey Carrier and Alyssa Palmacci to form a talented group of offensive players.

RHODEN'S TAKE: "Our attack will be more potent than that of last year," Rhoden said. "We now have speed, strength, creativity, and strong mental toughness in all our forwards. They are all capable of scoring several goals per game and will be a very exciting group to watch."

Broadcast Schedule

Saturday, Aug. 23 at Jacksonville State 6:30 PM (Audio)

Friday, Aug. 29 Vanderbilt 6:30 PM (Audio/Video)

Sunday, Aug. 31 Belmont 1 PM (Audio/Video)

Friday, Sept. 5 Texas Tech 6:30 PM (Audio)

Sunday, Sept. 7 High Point 1:30 PM (Audio/Video)

Friday, Sept. 19 Ole Miss 6:30 PM (Audio)

Friday, Oct. 3 Troy 6:30 PM (Audio/Video)

Sunday, Oct. 5 South Alabama 1 PM (Audio/Video)

Friday, Oct. 10 at Arkansas State 4 PM (Audio)

Sunday, Oct. 12 at UALR 1 PM (Audio)

Friday, Oct. 17 Louisiana-Monroe 6:30 PM (Audio/Video)

Sunday, Oct. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette 1 PM (Audio)

Friday, Oct. 31 Western Kentucky 6 PM (Audio/Video)

Stats Corner

Middle Tennessee vs. Jacksonville State

2008 Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.-Exp.	Hometown/High School (Last School)
0	Kela Casiple	GK	5-8	SO-1L	Miami, Fla. (Palmer Trinity HS)
1	Erynn Murray	GK	5-9	JR-2L	Kernersville, N.C. (R.J. Reynolds HS)
2	Laura Lamberth	MF	5-8	FR-HS	White House, Tenn. (Goodpasture Christian HS)
3	Elise Hutter	D	5-5	SR-3L	Miamisburg, Ohio (Miamisburg HS)
4	Hope Suominen	MF	5-3	FR-HS	Pontypridd, Wales (Oakland College)
5	Fran Howells	D	5-10	SO-1L	Swansea, South Wales (Oakland College)
6	Jen Threlkeld	F	5-6	JR-2L	Carrollton, Texas (Newman HS)
7	Jaimee Cooper	MF	5-4	SO-1L	Hixson, Tenn. (Notre Dame HS)
8	Vanessa Mueggler	MF	5-5	SO-1L	Pincourt, Quebec (John Rennie HS)
9	Heather McDonnell	MF/F	5-5	FR-HS	Bedfordshire, England (Vandyke Upper Secondary)
10	Shan Jones	F	5-4	FR-HS	Y Felinheli, Wales (Sir Hugh Owen School)
11	Kim Farrant	F	5-5	SR-2L	San Diego, Calif. (San Diego Mesa College)
12	Kelly Downs	F	5-6	SO-1L	Hixson, Tenn. (Soddy Daisy HS)
13	Bethany Bertovic	D	5-2	SO-1L	Birmingham, Ala. (Oak Mountain HS)
14	Emily Snowdon	D	5-5	SO-1L	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Air Academy)
15	Ashli Julien	MF/F	5-6	FR-HS	Columbus, Ga. (Hardaway HS)
16	Jessica Heckman	D	5-5	FR-HS	Overland Park, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)
17	Emily Harris	D/MF	5-3	SO-1L	Knoxville, Tenn. (Farragut HS)
18	Nenita Burgess	D	5-3	SR-3L	Adelaide, Australia (Cardijn College)
19	Sarah Beth Lee	MF	5-8	JR-2L	Waynesville, N.C. (Tuscola HS)
20	Caitlin Reeves	D/F	5-7	SR-3L	McKinney, Texas (McKinney HS)
21	Lynsey Carrier	D/F	5-6	FR-HS	LaPorte, Texas (LaPorte HS)
22	Elisabeth Sikes	D	5-6	FR-HS	Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom HS)
23	Jenna Bowers	D	5-7	FR-HS	Chandler, Ariz. (Seton Catholic HS)
24	Charity Blair	D	5-5	FR-HS	Chattanooga, Tenn. (Girls Preparatory School)
25	Luisa Moscoso	MF/F	5-6	FR-HS	Bogota, Columbia (St. Thomas Aquinas)
26	Alyssa Palmacci	F	5-4	FR-HS	Plano, Texas (Prestonwood Christian Academy)

Head Coach: Aston Rhoden
Assistant Coach: Adam Sayers
Graduate Assistant: Debs Brereton
Student Assistant: William Keene

Middle Tennessee vs. Jacksonville State

Media Roster

Kela Casiple
GK, 5-8, SO-1L
Miami, Fla.

Erynn Murray
GK, 5-9, JR-2L
Kernersville, N.C.

Laura Lamberth
MF, 5-8, FR-HS
White House, Tenn.

Elise Hutter
D, 5-5, SR-3L
Miamisburg, Ohio

Hope Suominen
MF, 5-3, FR-HS
Pontypridd, Wales

Fran Howells
D, 5-10, SO-1L
Swansea, Wales

Jen Thelkeld
F, 5-6, JR-2L
Carrollton, Texas

Jaimee Cooper
MF, 5-4, SO-1L
Hixson, Tenn.

Vanessa Mueggler
MF, 5-5, SO-1L
Pincourt, Quebec

Heather McDonnell
MF/F, 5-5, FR-HS
Bedfordshire, Eng.

Shan Jones
F, 5-4, FR-HS
Y Felinheli, Wales

Kim Farrant
F, 5-5, SR-2L
San Diego, Calif.

Kelly Downs
F, 5-6, SO-1L
Hixson, Tenn.

Bethany Bertovic
D, 5-2, SO-1L
Birmingham, Ala.

Emily Snowdon
D, 5-5, SO-1L
Colo. Springs, Colo.

Ashli Julien
MF/F, 5-6, FR-HS
Columbus, Ga.

Jessica Heckman
D, 5-5, FR-HS
Overland Park, Kan.

Emily Harris
D/MF, 5-3, SO-1L
Knoxville, Tenn.

Nenita Burgess
D, 5-3, SR-3L
Adelaide, Austrailia

Sarah Beth Lee
MF, 5-8, JR-2L
Waynesville, N.C.

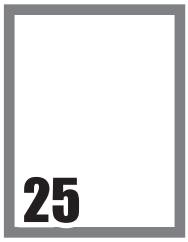
Caitlin Reeves
D/F, 5-7, SR-3L
McKinney, Texas

Lynsey Carrier
D/F, 5-6, FR-HS
LaPorte, Texas

Elisabeth Sikes
D, 5-6, FR-HS
Huntsville, Ala.

Jenna Bowers
D, 5-7, FR-HS
Chandler, Ariz.

Charity Blair
D, 5-5, FR-HS
Chattanooga, Tenn.



Luisa Moscoso
MF/F, 5-6, FR-HS
Bogota, Columbia

Alyssa Palmacci
F, 5-4, FR-HS
Plano, Texas

Head Coach
Aston Rhoden
Ala.-Huntsville ('89)

Assistant Coach
Dr. Adam Sayers
Tusculum ('00)

Graduate Assistant
Debs Brereton
MTSU ('05)