

Stockstill likes tempo, effort in second practice

Team will put on the pads Saturday

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee conducted its second practice of spring drills on Friday inside Floyd Stadium. The team went through a 24 period workout that once again pleased Head Coach Rick Stockstill.

"These guys come in with a great attitude every day and it shows in the way they approach practice," said Stockstill. "I liked their tempo today and their effort."

One thing that stood out on Friday was the play of quarterback Dwight Dasher. The junior looked sharp and confident in just his second practice with the Blue Raiders' new offense as he completed 8 of 11 passes during the team period.

"I told Dwight after practice today that he had the best practice since he has been here," said Stockstill. "He was crisp, protected the ball, and just looked comfortable."

The Blue Raiders will don full pads for the first time on Saturday as the team will practice at 10:30 AM.

"We will have the same type of practice but will add in the inside drill to work with the linemen and be a little more physical," added Stockstill.



PRO DAY RECAP: Middle Tennessee held its annual pro day on Thursday and four Blue Raiders participated. Defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins, linebacker Ivon Hickmon, defensive back Ted Riley, and kicker Matt King all performed for scouts from the Buffalo Bills and New Orleans Saints. The players were timed in the 40-yard dash, along with agility tests, the pro shuttle, the L-Drill, the 225-pound rep, the vertical jump and the broad jump.

Jenkins enjoyed a very solid day by recording 30 reps of the 225-pound weights while posting a broad jump of 8'-6". Hickmon, who enjoyed his best year as a Blue Raider in 2008, had a vertical jump of 35 inches and a broad jump of 9'-9".

The Blue Raiders also had 14 juniors who worked out for the scouts.

SUBER BACK: Senior defensive back Alex Suber, who missed the last five games of the 2008 season with a broken jaw, is back on the practice field which is a good sight for Blue Raider coaches and fans. Prior to his injury, Suber was having an all-conference season with 26 tackles, two interceptions, four pass breakups, and a blocked field goal. "It's great to be back on the field and preparing for my senior season," said Suber. "It was hard missing those five games and watching my teammates go to battle without me but it makes me even hungrier for 2009."

LIMITED LINEMEN: Offensive linemen Jake Padrick, Brandon McLeroy, and Colin Boss will all be limited during spring drills. All three had off-season surgery but should be back full-go when fall practice begins in August.

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