

Soccer to Think Pink this weekend

Blue Raiders playing Arkansas State, UALR at home

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee soccer team will help spread the word about breast cancer research and awareness when it wears specially designed pink warm-up shirts prior to the two matches this weekend at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium. The Think Pink weekend, sponsored by the Center for Breast Health at Middle Tennessee Medical Center, will feature Blue Raiders in action against Arkansas State at 7 p.m. Friday and UALR at Noon Sunday.

"We are certainly excited to play our part in breast cancer awareness," head coach

Aston Rhoden said. "We want our fans to come out and support the cause in addition to us."



In addition to the team's t-shirt, another design has been created by IdeasTees for sale to the general public. Those shirts will be sold for \$12 and are short-sleeved.

Middle Tennessee enters the weekend with a 9-2-1 overall and 3-1 Sun Belt record. The Blue Raiders are coming off a trip to Alabama last weekend in which they lost in overtime to Troy before rebounding for a one-goal win at South Alabama.

"We had a tough road trip last weekend," Rhoden said. "It is certainly good to get back home and play in front of our home fans, who have been tremendous this season."

Sophomore Shan Jones heads a pack of four players among the Sun Belt's top five in scoring. She has 19 points to tie for the league lead, while freshman Whitney Jorgenson, junior Vanessa Mueggler and senior Jen Threlkeld are all tied for fourth with 13 points apiece.

Sophomore Rebecca Cushing continues to control the goalie spot, taking a 1.14 goals-against average and three solo shutouts into the weekend.

"Arkansas State is at the top of the league, which makes it a strong challenge. UALR, although inconsistent, makes it another unpredictable and dangerous opponent."

Derek Pittman's Arkansas State squad is 6-4-1 and 3-0 in the Sun Belt entering Friday's match. Sophomore Kara Nitti is the top point producer for the Red Wolves with 13 points, including five goals.

UALR, under the direction of head coach Freddy Delgado, is 2-7-1 overall and 1-2-1 in the league going into its match Friday at Western Kentucky before playing MT Sunday. The Trojans are led in scoring by sophomore Christina Veasley, who has four goals and 10 points on the campaign.

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