

October 30, 2009

## Men's Basketball Notebook - October 30

### Blue Raiders set to host Fan Appreciation Night Nov. 9

*MT Athletic Communications*

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** - The Blue Raider men's basketball team will play host to Fan Appreciation Night on Nov. 9 prior to its exhibition game with North Alabama.

Middle Tennessee men's basketball players will be in different sections of the stands meeting fans and signing autographs during the women's exhibition game with Lincoln Memorial set for 5:30 p.m.

Then at halftime of the women's game head men's basketball coach Kermit Davis will address the crowd before the team pairs up with children at the game to play kid-friendly games.

Fans that have not already purchased their season tickets prior to the night of the exhibition doubleheader will have the opportunity to select their seats the night of the game.

Seats that have not been taken by those who have already purchased season tickets will be marked with color coded pieces of paper. Fans will just take the paper from the seat they would like to have over to the ticket office located in Murphy Center to purchase that seat.

The seat selection will be for both men's and women's season tickets.

**RAIDERS PICKED THIRD IN EAST:** Middle Tennessee was picked to finish third place in the Eastern Division of the Sun Belt Conference this coming season, in the annual pre-season poll released earlier this week. Middle Tennessee head coach Kermit Davis was disappointed, but philosophical about it.

"Obviously, when you are picked third, it's not where you want to be, but I can see why it turned out that way. The two teams picked ahead of us, Western Kentucky and Troy, have a lot of returning players. Western has five of their top six returning, and Troy has six of their top seven, so I can sure see why the coaches in the league voted that way.

"But last year, Western was picked third and wound up winning it, so you never know. There are a lot of hidden factors that determine the way things actually turn out. Some players tabbed as all-stars don't perform as expected, some players no one voted for have a great season, some guys get hurt, and then you never know how good the newcomers are going to be."

**INJURY REPORT:** **Trevor Ottley**, a 6-9 transfer from Garden City Community College, is still out with a knee injury, but **Montarrio Haddock** is back on the court and getting back into playing shape.

"Right now, the grind in on, you're starting your third week of practice, and every player in American has a knick, a bruise, but you have to be tougher, to play through," Davis said.

**MEDIA TOUTS BLUE RAIDER FRONT LINE:** Members of the media covering Middle Tennessee seem to like the Blue Raiders' front line of 6-10 **Theryn Hudson**, 6-7 Boogie



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Yates, and 6-5 **Montarrio Haddock**, even speculating that this trio could be the best in the Sun Belt Conference. Davis, while noting that his senior trio could reach that lofty plateau if they play up to expectations, is quick to point out both Western Kentucky and North Texas have big, quick, experienced front courts.

Western returns Steffphon Pettigrew, Sergio Kersch and Jeremy Evans, all picked to the pre-season All-Conference team. North Texas beat up Middle Tennessee's front line up with Eric Tramiel and George Odufuwa in the Sun Belt tournament in March.

**BOOGIE CROWNED HOMECOMING KING:** Desmond "Boogie" Yates was crowned Homecoming King during halftime of Middle Tennessee's Homecoming activities last Saturday afternoon, and Coach Davis thinks it is great for him, and the basketball team

"I think **Desmond Yates** is one of the most under-valued student-athletes who has ever been on this campus," Davis says. "He is humble, a great athlete, he does community service, he's going to graduate in May. It doesn't surprise me that he got Homecoming King because he knows everybody on campus. He talks to them, smiles all the time. He is a very humble person. I see it every day. I know his mother has to be awful proud."

"I don't know if a student-athlete has ever been voted Homecoming King before. It's good for Boogie, it's good for basketball, and it's good for the entire athletic department." Davis said.

**RAIDERS OPEN WITH NORTH ALABAMA:** Middle Tennessee will kick off the 2009-10 basketball season on Monday night, November 9th, in an exhibition game against North Alabama in Murphy Center. It will be part of a double-header with the women's team. Coach Rick Insell's charges will play Lincoln Memorial University at 5:30 pm, with the men set to tipoff at 7:30 or 30-minutes after the women's game has ended.

**BLUE RAIDERS ON-AIR:** Middle Tennessee's exhibition game with North Alabama will be broadcast on-line through [goblueraiders.com](http://goblueraiders.com) with Dick Palmer calling the play-by-play and Duane Hickie providing color analysis.

**SEASON TICKETS:** Season tickets for Middle Tennessee's home games are now on sale. The Blue Raiders will play 18 games at home this season, starting with the exhibition on Monday, November 9th against North Alabama. The season ticket package also contains a ticket for the Raiders' game against Tennessee in the Sommet Center on Friday, Dec. 11th. Tickets may be purchased at the MTSU ticket office, or fans may call 1-800-YES-MTSU, or order season tickets on line at [GoBlueRaiders.com](http://GoBlueRaiders.com)

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