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Clark tabbed All-American; Blue Raiders ranked No. 26 in coaches poll

Associated Press recognizes senior forward

Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's basketball continues to receive preseason praise from various sources this week, as the Associated Press touted redshirt senior forward **Alysha Clark** as an Honorable Mention All-American and the Blue Raiders earned a No. 26 national ranking in the preseason ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

Clark, who led the nation in scoring last year with 27.5 ppg and has been selected to the preseason Wooden Award and Wade Trophy lists, was among 14 players to receive votes for the AP All-American Team after the organization tabbed its five-member squad. She was a member of the AP All-American Third Team in 2008-09.

Middle Tennessee was listed at No. 26 with 121 points in the preseason ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll released Wednesday. The Blue Raiders topped the Others Receiving Votes category after finishing last season ranked No. 29 in the final poll.

The 2009-10 team opened exhibition action Monday with a 96-68 win against Carson-Newman. Clark led all players with 23 points and 13 rebounds.

The Blue Raiders will play their next and final exhibition game at 5:30 p.m. Monday against Lincoln Memorial as part of a MT basketball doubleheader.

Preseason AP All-America First Team:

Maya Moore, Connecticut
 Jayne Appel, Stanford
 Tina Charles, Connecticut
 Jantel Lavender, Ohio State
 Monica Wright, Virginia

Preseason AP All-America Honorable Mention:

Alysha Clark, Middle Tennessee

Ashley Barlow, Notre Dame
 Angie Bjorklund, Tennessee
 Elena Delle Donne, Delaware
 Alexis Gray-Lawson, California
 Brittney Griner, Baylor
 Allison Hightower, LSU
 Danielle McCray, Kansas
 Deirdre Naughton, DePaul
 Nnemkadi Ogwumike, Stanford
 Samantha Prahalis, Ohio State



Alysha Clark was named an Honorable Mention Preseason All-American by the Associated Press. (Bradley Lambert)

Andrea Riley, Oklahoma State
Danielle Robinson, Oklahoma
Courtney Vandersloot, Gonzaga

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