

Softball announces seven new signees

Nevar and staff excited about 2010 class

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Even with the 2010 Middle Tennessee softball season still three months away, the early signing of seven new Blue Raider athletes for the 2011 campaign is creating excitement among coach Sue Nevar and her staff.

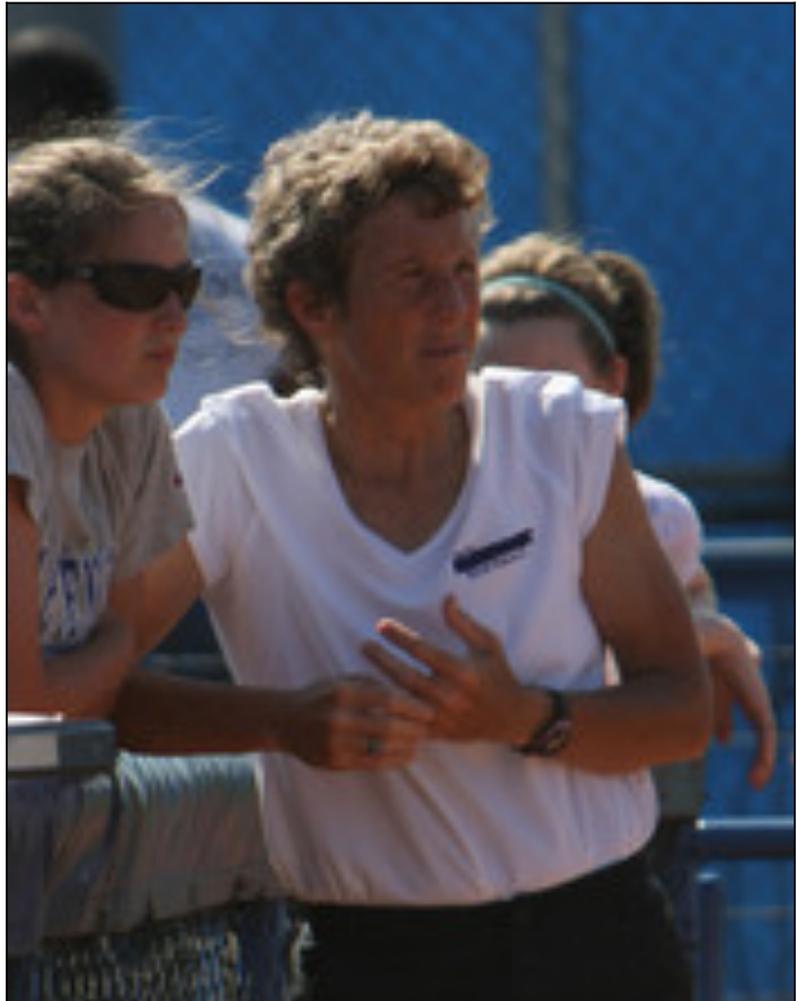
"It was hard work that will pay off for the program and the university," said Nevar. "This group is the largest class, and has some of the greatest potential power and versatility of any recruiting class we have had. We have recruited seven players with unteachable toughness and attitude."

The signees include Greenville, Ohio, native Jordyn Fisherback, who is a multisport athlete at Greenville High. She has been ranked as

the seventh best recruit in the state of Ohio. During her junior campaign, Fisherback posted an impressive 130 strikeouts in 80 innings, while recording a miniscule 0.35 ERA. Her 2009 record of 12-2 led her squad to a second-place ranking in Ohio's Division 1.

"Once she makes the transition to the collegiate level, she will be a real gun on the mound for us. She will need to develop, but she can already throw 67 mph and she also has great power at the plate as well."

Lauren Keele and Shelby Stinnett joins Fisherback as the other pitchers signed. Keele's versatility and quickness allow her to line up at both middle infield positions. She is solid fundamentally and boasts a 4.0 GPA at Dickson County High in Dickson, Tenn. During her 2009 summer ball season, Keele batted an astounding .442 for the under-18 Thunderbolts while at the same time commanding an arsenal of six pitches.



"She is a quick fireball with lots of energy that will bring excitement to our program," added Nevar.

Stinnett, a native of Chapel Hill, Tenn., like Keele can also double as a pitcher and fielder. At Forrest High, Stinnett was named to the 2008 TWSA Class A All-State team under head coach Becky Cheatham.

"Her greatest asset is her stick," said Nevar. "She was a member of the 2008 Class A State Champions at Forrest, so she has winning experience."

Also signed is Kayla Toney, a middle infielder from Beech High in Hendersonville, Tenn. In her first two high school campaigns, she amassed a cumulative .331 batting average with 21 RBIs. Toney hit a solo home run in the 2009 Class AAA championship game against Riverdale High School. Toney has maintained a 3.76 GPA at Beech her first three years.

"Kayla is an excellent lefty power hitter that will look to claim a spot in the middle infield," said Nevar. "She will be a real factor with her bat."

Local product Shelby Lamb signed as a versatile utility infielder out of Shelbyville, Tenn. A multisport athlete at Shelbyville Central High, Lamb has a reputation of playing with wreckless abandon. She has played summer ball for the Tennessee Attack club.

"Shelby is gutsy and knows no limits when she plays. She has great infield ability to play any spot on the diamond, while being a tough out at the plate."

Casey Horner of Whitesburg, Tenn., signed as an infielder from Hamblen East High, in Morristown, Tenn. In 2009, Horner batted .552, with seven home runs and five stolen bases for the summer ball Knoxville Thunder. She has maintained a three-year GPA of 4.0 at Hamblen East.

"Casey has a beautiful contact swing," added Nevar. "She has hidden power and could be a nice surprise for us."

Nina Dever, a speedy outfielder out of Greenbrier, Tenn., rounds out the early signing class. Dever currently plays for Greenbrier High. She recorded a .350 batting average, a .563 slugging percentage, 27 RBIs and 10 doubles last spring.

"Nina is a multisport athlete that has played four years with the summer ball squad Team Worth under Michael Connell," said Nevar. "She should fill in the gaps in the outfield when Corrie and Kelsey graduate."

"We are very excited about our new players. They are all great young players that share a vision of bringing a Sun Belt title to Middle Tennessee. The coaching staff will be working our hardest to get them ready to contribute immediately."

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