This Week in Blue Raider Athletics

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FREE CLINICS, PRO-AM SET FOR TENNIS TEAMS: The Middle Tennessee tennis teams will offer a pair of free clinics this fall at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center, beginning Wednesday, September 14. The free clinic will begin at 7 p.m. and last 90 minutes, with head women's coach Alison Ojeda and head men's coach Dale Short coordinating the event. All age groups are invited. The clinic on September 14 precedes the men's fall invitational set for September 16-18, while the second clinic is set for Wednesday, October 5, at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center, and precedes the women's fall invitational on October 7-9.

MOBLEY TAKES LOSS, TEAM USA READIES FOR MEDAL ROUND: Former Middle Tennessee pitcher Chris Mobley suffered the loss in Team USA's 7-6 defeat to Japan on Saturday. The righthander allowed a run on one hit with two walks in one inning of work, striking out one. Mobley has one save in pool play for Team USA in three innings of work. He threw one-third of an inning Tuesday in the 5-4 triumph over Chinese Taipei, striking out one. Quarterfinal action begins in the medal round on Wednesday. Team USA draws the unenviable task of playing Cuba in the quarterfinals at Noon Central Time in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Semifinals are set for Friday, with the championship game taking place on Saturday. Full results and stories, as well as a complete roster, may be found at usabaseball.com.

FLY-GUSTAFSSON, LALANCE-KOMMIREDDI WIN PRO-AM DOUBLES: Frank Fly and Robert Gustafsson took first place in the men's division, while Jan Lalance and Pooja Kommireddi won first prize in the women's division Saturday during the doubles competition of the 19th Annual Wally Tidwell Pro-Am, presented by Mark Pirtle. Fly and Gustafsson defeated Kevin Curlee and Marc Boiron in the final, while Bill Neal and Peter Heffernan finished third in the men's division. Three teams tied for fourth - Trevor Short-James Hayes, David Yarbrough-Kirk Jackson, and Brad Herrera-Kirk Jackson. On the women's side, Lalance-Kommireddi defeated Elizabeth Ingle and Stacy Varnell in the final, with Rhee Lotito and Jenny Klaschka placing third, and Ann Sherill and Ana Maria Cibils taking fourth.

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY SATURDAY: An induction ceremony for this year's three Blue Raider Hall of Fame inductees - Roland McGhee, Tim Sisneros and Dennis Mix - will be held this Saturday at 1:30 p.m., prior to Middle Tennessee's kickoff against Akron at 4 p.m. The induction will take place on the south lawn of the Kennon Hall of Fame and is free and open to the public. A dinner honoring the trio and past Hall of Famers is set for Friday night and is sold out. More than 30 of the 46 living Hall of Fame members will be present for both the Celebration and the induction ceremony on Saturday. A total of 88 members have been enshrined into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame since its inception in 1976. Hall of Fame members Jimmy Earle, Dean Hayes, Tommy Haynes and others will make remarks during the Celebration.

GAME VIDEO ON WEBSITE: Video footage from Middle Tennessee's first two football games this season - at Alabama and versus North Texas - are available at GoBlueRaiders.com. The corresponding game footage has a link on the ticker across the top of the front page, as well as on each game story, which may be found on the Schedule link on the Football page. Video from all home games, as well as other selected road games, will be available throughout the season.

FORMER BASEBALL PLAYERS END SEASONS: Four former Blue Raider baseball players have ended their minor and independent league seasons, while three others continue play at least through the end of the weekend. Brett Carroll (2002-04) and Chris Mobley (2002-04) played for the Greensboro (NC) Grasshoppers, Class A in the Florida Marlins organization. Carroll belted 18 home runs and 28 doubles with 54 RBIs in 118 games this season, batting .243 overall. Mobley departed for Team USA on August 29 after posting a 3-5 record with a 2.23 ERA in 54 appearances, saving 34 contests and striking out 74 in 60.2 innings of work. Lefthander John Williams (2001-04) had a 2-3 record in 38 relief appearances for the Beloit (WI) Snappers, Class A in the Minnesota Twins organization. Williams worked 75.1 innings, striking out 66 with one save. In the independent ranks, Josh Renick (2000-01) batted .253 in 57 contests for the St. Paul (MN) Saints in the Northern League with nine doubles, four homers and 22 RBIs. Pitcher Adam Larson (2002) also played part of the season with the Saints. Mobley continues play for Team USA in the quarterfinals of the IBAF World Cup in The Netherlands with a quarterfinal contest Wednesday against Cuba. Eric McNamee (2004-05) and former assistant coach Andy Haines are with the Gary (IN) Southshore Railcats and being play in the Northern League's championship series tonight in Fargo, N.D. McNamee has batted .267 in 62 outings with eight doubles, 25 RBIs, 37 runs scored and 39 walks for the 54-42 Railcats. One other former Blue Raider, Jeremy Owens (1996-98), is batting .285 in 127 games with 25 doubles, 23 home runs and 74 RBIs for the Somerset Patriots in the independent Atlantic League. The Patriots schedule runs through the end of September.

BASEBALL SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL FISH FRY: Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson has announced the annual Grand Slam Fish Fry fundraiser will take place on Tuesday, October 4, at 6 p.m. The event will be held in the Livestock Center on the Middle Tennessee campus and will feature catfish and Cajun gumbo for adults and hot dogs for kids. Russ & Becky Jeffers Country Band, as well as "Big Hoss Cartwright," will be on hand for the evening's entertainment. Tickets are $15 in advance and $18 at the door. Children under six are admitted free of charge. Tickets are available at the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office located at Gate 1A of Floyd Stadium. Tickets are also available at Vick's Lawn & Tractor in Murfreesboro, Crosslin Supply in Smyrna and Wheeler's Market in Murfreesboro. Patrons wishing to pay by mail can make checks payable to Middle Tennessee Baseball Fish Fry and can send their payment to Steve Peterson, MTSU Box 90, Murfreesboro, TN, 37132. For more information, please call 615/898-2984 or 615/898-2450.

Proceeds from the Grand Slam Fish Fry benefit the Blue Raider baseball program. The Blue Raiders begin fall practice on September 18 and wrap-up the four-week session with the Blue-White World Series, tentatively set for October 12-14.

RAIDER RELAY SET FOR VANDY GAME: The Student Government Association is putting together the traditional Raider Relay to carry a football from Floyd Stadium to Vanderbilt on Saturday, October 1, prior to the Blue Raiders and Commodores football game. The SGA is teaming up with the Alumni Association and Athletic Department, hoping to attract a cross-section of both students and alumni to carry the ball from Murfreesboro to Fannie Mae Dees Park in Nashville. An all-day event, approximately 36 runners are needed to complete the run, with each participant carrying the football one mile apiece. Students will have an opportunity to sign-up at the first two home football games, September 10 against North Texas and September 17 versus Akron, and in the SGA office the week between the two games, with a drawing to select the lucky students to run. Alumni wanting to take part in the event should contact Michelle Stepp in the Alumni Office at 615/898-2922 or mstepp@mtsu.edu.

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