In-state opponent due up next for Middle Tennessee women's basketball Friday

First meeting with ETSU since 2002

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will return to the friendly confines of the Murphy Center for its next two games, beginning with a 7 p.m. Friday tip-off against in-state foe ETSU.

The Blue Raiders enter the game on the heels of their first loss of the season, a 77-50 setback at SEC opponent Arkansas Sunday. The defeat dropped Middle Tennessee's record to 2-1 on the young season after it opened the campaign with back-to-back wins over USF and at Austin Peay.

Freshman Ebony Rowe continues to lead the team with 17.3 ppg and 11.3 rpg, converting 19-of-25 field goals (76.0 percent). She tops the Sun Belt in rebounding and field goal percentage.

Senior Anne Marie Lanning is next on the squad with 13.0 ppg and 4.7 rpg, while playing a league-high 39.3 minutes per game. Lanning has knocked down 8-of-13 (61.5 percent) 3-pointers, nearly one-half of the Blue Raiders' conversions.

The Lady Bucs bring a 2-2 ledger into Friday's matchup but own losses in their last two games to Appalachian State and at Ohio State. Murfreesboro native Tara Davis sets the pace for coach Karen Kemp's squad with 19.0 ppg, featuring a 29-of-30 (96.7 percent) effort from the foul line through the first four games with the lone miss coming against the Buckeyes.

Destiny Mitchell is averaging a double-double with 11.5 ppg and 10.0 rpg to date.

Friday's game will be the first in the series since 2002 when Middle Tennessee garnered a 95-70 victory to extend its current winning streak to three. The Blue Raiders lead the all-time series 16-3, which began with six consecutive triumphs. MT is 9-1 all-time against ETSU inside the Murphy Center.

Dick Palmer and Duane Hickey will have all the action live on the Blue Raider Network family of radio stations: WGNS (100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM), WMOT (89.5 FM) and WBRY (96.7 FM, 1540 AM).

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