Life on the road in December begins Wednesday

Six out of eight games in the month away from home

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will become very familiar with playing away from the friendly confines of Murphy Center during December when it begins a series of six out of eight games on the road during the month at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Cookeville, Tenn., against longtime rival Tennessee Tech.

The Blue Raiders will play just two home games in December and the meeting with the Golden Eagles, an opponent against whom MT played annually in the Ohio Valley Conference, will be first of three-straight away from Murfreesboro to open the month.

Middle Tennessee enters the game having won its last two, knocking off ETSU and South Dakota State, to improve to 4-1 on the young season. Three Blue Raiders average in double-figure scoring, led by freshman Ebony Rowe's 16.8 ppg. She is joined by senior Anne Marie Lanning and junior Tina Stewart, who average 13.0 ppg and 10.2 ppg, respectively.

Rowe has had three double-doubles in her first five collegiate contests and currently tops the squad with 10.4 rebounds per game. Lanning will enter Wednesday's tilt 169 points shy of the 1,000-point plateau in her career, while also moving into sixth on the school's all-time 3-pointers made list with 186. Stewart netted a career-high 15 points to lead a quartet of Middle Tennessee players in double

digits in Sunday's win over the Jackrabbits.

Sophomore Kortni Jones helps direct the offense with 26 assists, including a career-high 10 against South Dakota State. Her distributing hand came on the heels of pouring in a career-best 19 points Friday against ETSU.

Tennessee Tech, under the direction of second-year head coach Sytia Messer, is undefeated at 4-0 thus far this season. The Golden Eagles are 2-0 at the Eblen Center, including a 75-42 triumph over Tennessee Wesleyan Saturday. Tacarra Hayes leads the squad with 11.3 ppg, while Tiara Hopper is next at 10.3 ppg and a team-high 6.8 rpg.

The Golden Eagles lead the all-time series, 38-34, dating back to the first meeting January 17, 1976. However, the Blue Raiders have captured victories in each of the last five matchups, all under the direction of head coach Rick Insell.

Middle Tennessee fans can listen to the game on the Blue Raider Network, as Dick Palmer will have all the action on WGNS (100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM), WMOT (89.5 FM) and WBRY (96.7 FM, 1540 AM).

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