

Blue Raiders head to Florida

Team preparing for another unbeaten conference opponent

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee basketball team will hit the road this week with two wins under its belt as it heads to Florida to play Florida Atlantic and FIU. The Blue Raiders faced FAU earlier this month falling 71-61 at Murphy Center. The Owls lead the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference with a 7-0 record and have won seven straight games. Middle Tennessee is undaunted by this fact as the team has knocked off two conference unbeaten teams this season in North Texas and Denver. Middle Tennessee has also enjoyed recent success at FAU Arena winning its last two games there against the Owls. Middle Tennessee also leads the all-time series between the two schools 7-3. R-sophomore Jason Jones and senior James Washington led the Blue Raiders in scoring in Sun Belt action averaging 15.9 and 14.4 points per game



respectively. J. Jones also leads the team in rebounding averaging 6.0 per game. The duo has also combined for double figure scoring in all but one game against Sun Belt opponents. The Blue Raiders will first play Florida Atlantic on Thursday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. CST before traveling to Miami for a doubleheader with FIU at 6 p.m. CST on Saturday, Jan. 29. Chip Walters will call all the action on the Blue Raider Network and live stats may be found on goblueraiders.com. The Sun Belt Championships will be held in Hot Springs, Ark., March 4-8. Tickets for all sessions are \$83 and on sale through the Blue Raider Ticket Office by contacting 1-888-YES-MTSU or purchase tickets through goblueraiders.com. **Notes and Highlights Unbeatens Fall...**

Middle Tennessee has handed a conference opponent its first Sun Belt loss twice this season

ending large streaks for each team. The first came against North Texas (1/5/11) who entered Murphy Center having won 13 straight league games. Middle Tennessee defeated the Mean Green 78-71. Then Denver (1/22/11) entered the "Glass House" having won seven straight Sun Belt games. Middle Tennessee overcame a sluggish first half to take a 10-point win, 59-49. **One of the Sun Belt's Best...**

Middle Tennessee coach Kermit Davis is second in all-time victories among active Sun Belt coaches with 78, trailing only Ronnie Arrow in his second stint at South Alabama. Overall, Davis is among the league's all-time winningest coaches in Sun Belt play with 78 victories and is fourth all-time. With the win over Denver, Davis passed former UL-Lafayette head coach Jessie Evans for fourth on the all-time list with 78 Sun Belt wins. **Dual Threat...**

Senior James Washington and r-sophomore Jason Jones have proved they are a force to be reckoned with on the court. The pair have scored in double digits in the same game 13 times this season including their last five games. Middle Tennessee is 5-8 in those games but in Sun Belt action is 3-3 including an overtime win on the road at UL-Lafayette.

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