

Elie garners first Sun Belt Player of the Week accolade

Netted a career-high 28 points against ULM

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NEW ORLEANS - Middle Tennessee women's basketball sophomore Icelyn Elie has been selected as the February 7 Sun Belt Player of the Week, it was announced by the league office Monday morning. The honor is the first in the career for the Lebanon, Tenn., native.

She put together the best back-to-back games of her career in leading the Blue Raiders to a pair of home wins over ULM and South Alabama last week. She averaged 24.5 ppg and 8.5 rpg in the two victories, highlighted by a career-high 28 points against the Warhawks.

Elie hit a career-best 12-of-14 (85.7 percent) field goals and added 4-of-6 free throws for her career high Wednesday night, while adding eight rebounds, a career-best tying three blocked shots and an assist in a career-high 37 minutes.

She then converted 8-of-13 field goals and 5-of-5 free throws to score 21 points to go along with a game-best nine rebounds, a block and steal in 27 minutes against the Lady Jags Sunday.

It marks the first time in her career she has tallied at least 20 points in consecutive games, as she helped Middle Tennessee maintain its three-game lead in the East Division.



She joins freshman teammate Ebony Rowe as Blue Raider recipients of the Sun Belt Player of the Week honor this season. It marks the first time since 2006-07 more than one Middle Tennessee player has received the accolade in the same year when Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt did it.

On the season, Elie averages 11.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. She is among the Sun Belt's overall leaders for field goal percentage (6th, 52.3), blocked shots (14th, 0.7), offensive rebounds (15th, 2.3) and scoring (21st, 11.1).

Elie has helped the Blue Raiders to a 10-1 league record and 19-5 overall mark entering this week. Middle Tennessee continues to lead the conference's East Division by three games.

The Blue Raiders return to action at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday when they travel to Bowling Green, Ky., to face Western Kentucky. The next home game for MT will be at 7 p.m. Saturday against FIU in the annual WBCA Pink Zone contest. The Blue Raiders will wear special pink uniforms and the jerseys will be auctioned off at the conclusion of the game to raise money for breast cancer research.

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