Blue Raiders start final road trip of the season Thursday

Only three regular-season games remain

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's basketball will begin its last road trip of the regular season by hitting the road for Troy, Ala., for a 5:15 p.m. tip Thursday against the Troy Trojans in the second meeting of the East Division foes.

The Blue Raiders locked up their third-straight outright division crown Saturday following their 66-52 win over FIU inside the Murphy Center. Middle Tennessee ensured itself of at least a top-two seed in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament and a bye into the quarterfinal round with the victory.

Freshman Ebony Rowe was named the February 14 Sun Belt Player of the Week, her fourth honor this season, after averaging 21.5 points and 13.0 rebounds at Western Kentucky and against FIU last week. The four accolades are the most ever by a freshman in league history for a single season and raise the Blue Raider total to five on the year.

The Lexington, Ky., native continues to pace the squad with averages of 17.5 points and 10.3 rebounds, ranking among the league leaders in both categories. She is the only freshman among the top-five rookies nationally to hold a spot in both listings, placing third in the latest NCAA statistics.

Middle Tennessee brings a 21-5 overall and 12-1 Sun Belt record into the meeting, the 14th in the

series in which the Blue Raiders own a 13-0 lead. MT knocked off the Trojans in the earlier season matchup, 103-52, Jan. 19 in Murfreesboro.

Troy is currently 5-20 overall and 2-10 in the league under the direction of ninth-year head coach Michael Murphy. Donette McNair paces the Trojans with 14.0 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. She is one of three players averaging in double figures.

The Middle Tennessee radio call can be located on the Blue Raider Network with Dick Palmer handling play-by-play. Stations carrying the broadcast include WGNS (100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM), WMOT (89.5 FM) and WBRY (96.7 FM, 1540 AM).

Tickets are also available for the Sun Belt Tournament, to be held March 6-8 in Hot Springs, Ark., for the third-straight season. Tournament booklets are $83 and can be purchased by calling the Middle Tennessee ticket office at 1-888-YES-MTSU or stopping by the ticket office at Gate 1A of Floyd Stadium.

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