

Softball travels to Auburn for War Eagle Classic

Abel chasing history at Tiger hosted Tourney

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee Softball team returns to action this weekend as they are set to travel Auburn, Ala., to compete in the 2011 War Eagle Classic at Jane B. Moore Field. The squad opens competition Friday at 5:30 p.m. with a match-up with Marshall followed by Murray State at 8 p.m.

The Blue Raiders play one game on Saturday as they take on the Eagles of Georgia Southern at 8 p.m. They will conclude play Sunday at 2 p.m. against host Auburn.

Entering the weekend, the Blue Raiders hold a 2-5 record and are coming off a hard-fought weekend in Tallahassee, Fla., where the ladies posted a 1-4 record at the 2011 Garnet and Gold Games.

Having already split doubleheaders with Murray State and Georgia Southern this season, MT will have an opportunity turn both series in their favor. This is the first time in the program's history the Blue Raiders have faced two non-conference opponents three times in the same season.

"We need to go down and get some wins," head coach Sue Nevar said. "The teams we will face are all scrappy teams that can get big hits when necessary. They are all very comparable to teams we will face when we begin league play next month."



Senior Corrie Abel has a chance to make history this weekend. The Shorewood, Ill., native has a 190 career hits and sits just six shy of passing Allison Cheatham for the most in a Blue Raider career. Cheatham's school standard of 195 has stood since 1998.

Apart from historic numbers, Abel has been getting hits when her team needs them the most. This season, the senior has a .514 batting average with runners on base and is hitting .615 with runners in scoring position. Five of her team-leading eight RBIs have come with two outs.

"I love Corrie's approach to hitting. She to us as a good hitter, but in her time at here she has developed into a true threat that will do damage everytime she steps up to the plate. I am very proud of her and all she has accomplished."

This weekend's tournament will be another opportunity for upcoming freshman pitcher Jordyn Fisherback to get valuable game-time experience. At last weekend's Garnet and Gold Games, Fisherback earned a handful of firsts. These include: first win, complete game, relief appearance and strikeout.

In the first game with Georgia Southern, the Greenville, Ohio native was fantastic, throwing 6.0 innings of work, while allowing just one earned run off six hits. She struck out five batters and walked just one.

"Jordyn has really shown all the work she has done in the fall. She has a very business-like attitude in the circle. She still has a lot to learn, but her ceiling is very high."

Her first relief appearance, the second game with GSU, she would earn her first win, in a 6.0 inning appearance, where she allowed no earned runs a struck out three. Fisherback leads the Blue Raider staff in innings pitched (18.2), strikeouts (18), and ERA (4.88).

Live statistics and full post-game coverage of Middle Tennessee at the 2011 War Eagle Classic will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com and Twitter.com/MT_Softball.

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