

Softball releases 2012 schedule

Blue Raiders open season Feb. 17

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. --

The Middle Tennessee softball program released its 2012 schedule on Tuesday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders will play a total of 57 games with 18 coming at home. The schedule features eight contests against teams that qualified for the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

Middle Tennessee will begin the season in Charlotte, N.C., for the Charlotte Classic played Feb. 17-19. The team will play a total of five games against host Charlotte, Kansas and Stony Brook.

The Blue Raiders will return to the East Coast the following weekend when they head to the Cougar Classic in Charleston, S.C. Matchups against College of Charleston, Wagner, Lipscomb and Virginia Tech are included in the tournament slate.

“We have the opportunity to play some quality teams from good conferences that we normally don’t play,” said Middle Tennessee softball coach Sue Nevar. “It is also very exciting as we are heading to some new places for the first time.”



The nonconference
tournament season continues



when Middle Tennessee makes the trip to Knoxville for the Tennessee Classic played March 2-4. The squad will face a tough draw with games against Memphis, Louisville, ETSU and Murray State as well as a meeting with the Volunteers. In addition, the Blue Raiders will have the rare opportunity to play an exhibition against the Dutch National Team.

“We are really looking forward to the Tennessee Classic,” Nevar said. “We are privileged to play the Dutch National Team and we always look forward to playing Tennessee.”

Middle Tennessee will make the short trip north for the Lady Bison Classic to close out the tournament season the following weekend. Drake, Eastern Michigan, Alabama State and host Lipscomb join the Blue Raiders in the tournament field.

The Blue Raiders will open up their home schedule when they host Eastern Illinois for a doubleheader on March 14.

A weekend series against UL-Lafayette on April 14-15 highlights the home conference schedule. UL-Monroe, FIU and Western Kentucky will also make trips to Murfreesboro in 2012. Doubleheaders with Evansville and Austin Peay as well as a single game against UT-Martin complete the home schedule.

“The Sun Belt schedule will provide us with the same challenge as always,” said Nevar. “This year will be no different as we will face a number of quality teams in the league.”

Conference road trips to North Texas, South Alabama, Troy, Western Kentucky and Florida Atlantic await the squad this season. In addition, Middle Tennessee will face Jacksonville State, Samford, Murray State and Southeast Missouri in nonconference road tests.

Admission to all home games will once again be free in 2012.

Follow the Blue Raider softball team on Twitter @MT_Softball and on Facebook at the MTSU Softball page. Also, stay up-to-date on the team with the latest softball news and information at the brand-new “Softball Notebook” page which can be found [here](#).

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