Stockstill announces staff assignments and new additions

Faulkner elevated to offensive coordinator

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee Head Coach Rick Stockstill announced today staff assignments and new additions to the 2012 Blue Raider coaching staff. Three current coaches will be handling different positions, while Stockstill welcomes three new members to his staff. Buster Faulkner was elevated to offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach following his first season in Murfreesboro. Faulkner handled the play-calling duties the final seven games of 2011 after Willie Simmons resigned. Also, fourth year coach Steve Ellis will serve as co-defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach. Brent Brock, who will be beginning his seventh season at MT, will move from inside receivers to running backs where he coached the final seven games of 2011, while Joe Cauthen takes over the defensive line after overseeing the linebackers in 2011. The newest members to Stockstill's staff will be Tyrone Nix, Matt Moore, and Glen Elarbee. Nix will carry the role of co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, while Moore will coach offensive tackles and serve as running game coordinator, and Elarbee will be in charge of offensive guards and centers. "I am very excited about these coaches joining our staff," said Stockstill. "I really took my time during this process because there were certain qualities I was looking for in each coach. All three are exactly what I wanted on this staff. "I wanted coaches who were as hungry, committed, and as passionate about this program and University as I am. They all have great energy, enthusiasm, passion for the players, and are excellent teachers with a vast amount of knowledge.

They have a tremendous desire and attitude to be at Middle Tennessee, while possessing great reputations as recruiters. I am anxious to get their families here and I know our players will love competing for them." Nix brings a wealth of experience to Middle Tennessee after serving as a defensive coordinator the past 11 years at Southern Miss, South Carolina, and Ole Miss. He was previously on Houston Nutt's staff at Ole Miss the past four years. In three of the last four years, the Rebel defense has been among the best in the SEC and nation in tackles for loss and sacks under Nix. "I have known Tyrone for a long time and had the chance to coach with him for one year at South Carolina," said Stockstill. "Tyrone is one of the most respected coaches in the country. He has coordinated defenses in the SEC the last seven years and those defenses ranked among the best in the SEC and nationally. He has a proven track record as a coordinator and has coached many all-conference, all-Americans, and NFL players." Moore makes his way to Murfreesboro following five seasons on the staff at Texas Tech and brings vast knowledge of the spread offense. Moore has been to a bowl game in five of the last six seasons, including four victories. Prior to joining the staff at Texas Tech, Moore spent the 2006 season at Troy where he helped the Trojans to an 8-5 season and a win in the New Orleans Bowl. Moore's hiring is pending Tennessee Board of Regents approval. "Matt is a great addition to our offensive staff where he will handle the tackles," said Stockstill. "Having played for Mike Leach and coaching for him at Texas Tech, Matt has a great understanding of the Red Raider offense which is very similar to what we run at Middle Tennessee. He is a tremendous teacher and has the energy on the field that will develop our young tackles." The final addition to the staff is Elarbee, a former Blue Raider offensive lineman from 1999 to 2002 who will be making his second stint as a coach at MT. The former all-conference player spent the previous two seasons at West Georgia as offensive line coach and offensive coordinator. Elarbee served on the staff at LSU during the Tigers' 2007 national championship season while being a member of the Oklahoma State staff in 2008 and 2009. "Glen will bring the same toughness to our guards and centers as a coach that he did as a player," added Stockstill. "Glen has won a national championship at LSU and his experience coaching at Oklahoma State will help as we develop our offense. Everyone I talked to about Glen gave me the same message, you won't find a harder worker, better teacher, intelligent coach, and a person who cares about his players and school more than Glen." The Blue Raiders, currently in week two of mat drills, will begin spring practice on March 17. **2012 BLUE RAIDER COACHING STAFF**

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill (Florida State, 1982)
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Buster Faulkner (Valdosta St., 2005)
Offensive Tackles and Tight Ends/Running Game Coordinator: Matt Moore (Valdosta State, 1995)
Offensive Guards/Centers: Glen Elarbee (Middle Tennessee, 2003)
Wide Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator: Justin Watts (Clemson, 2000)
Running Backs: Brent Brock (Florida State, 1982)
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Steve Ellis (Nicholls State, 2003)
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Tyrone Nix (Southern Miss, 1995)
Safeties: David Bibee (Tennessee, 1977)

Defensive Line/Special Teams Coordinator: Joe Cauthen (Stephen F. Austin, 1990)

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