

# Blue Raiders to host Ball State this weekend

## First pitch on Friday scheduled for 3 p.m.

March 8, 2012 · Athletic Communications

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, 3 p.m. - vs. Ball State

Saturday, 2 p.m. - vs. Ball

State Sunday, 1 p.m. - vs. Ball

State **MURFREESBORO,**

**Tenn.** - After splitting a series

at Southern Illinois earlier this

week, the Middle Tennessee

baseball team will look to keep

their good fortune within the

friendly confines of Reese

Smith Jr. Field rolling this

weekend as it will welcome in

Mid-American Conference foe

Ball State to Murfreesboro.

The series marks just the

second in school history

between the Blue Raiders (8-

5) and the Cardinals. The two

sides split a pair of opening

games in the 2005 season.

Hunter Adkins, Johnathan

Frebis and Jonathan Sisco are

all slated to start, and the trio

has been responsible for

guiding what ranks as Sun

Belt Conference's best

pitching staff. The Blue

Raiders hold a 2.54 earned

run average, which ranks first

in the league, and MT entered the week ranked 26th nationally in the statistic. Adkins and Sisco both

carry spotless 2-0 records, and Adkins will be looking to repeat the performance he had the last time

he faced a MAC school. Against Ohio last month, the junior tossed nine scoreless frames and struck

out four on the way to earning SBC Pitcher of the Week. Sisco holds the team's best ERA among

starters at 1.35 and came into the week ninth nationally in hits allowed per nine innings. Last

Sunday, the junior tossed a complete game of his own, allowing just three hits. Frebis is 1-1 with a

2.70 ERA. At the plate, Justin Guidry has regained his place among the team's statistical leaders,

hitting at a .327 clip with seven runs scored and four stolen bases. Trent Miller is second on the team

in both average (.306) and home runs (3), and Ryan Ford is batting .302 but has been just as

effective on the basepaths with a team-best eight steals. As a team, the Blue Raiders have been



impressive after getting on base, swiping 27 bags on just 30 tries. In the SIU series, MT was successful on its first 10 steal attempts prior to Johnny Thomas being caught in Wednesday's loss. Thomas makes up for it though with his excellence at the plate as the junior leads all Blue Raiders with four homers, 14 RBI and 12 runs scored. BSU is coming into Friday's game amid a 20-game road swing to start off the season. The Cardinals dropped a tight 9-7 decision at Tennessee on Wednesday to fall to 2-7. T.J. Weir and Blake Beemer have starred offensively for the Cardinals, each boasting of a .324 batting average, and projected Friday starter Cal Bowling is entering the weekend after tossing a complete game in a 5-2 win over Missouri. First pitch on Friday is set for 3 p.m.

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