Softball primed for Lady Bison Classic

Four-game weekend awaits Blue Raiders

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Middle Tennessee softball team will complete its preconference tournament schedule when the Blue Raiders compete in the Lady Bison Classic this weekend in Nashville.

Middle Tennessee (3-8) will play a total of four games this weekend beginning on Saturday when they meet Drake at 2:30 p.m. CT prior to facing off with Eastern Michigan at 4:45 p.m. Sunday's slate has the squad playing Alabama State at 11 a.m. CT before closing out the weekend against tournament host Lipscomb at 3:30 p.m.

"We have an opportunity to get back on the winning track this weekend," said Middle Tennessee head coach Sue Nevar. "We have put in a hard week of practice and are excited to get back on the field and play."

Alabama State enters tournament play following an 0-4 weekend at the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic. The Hornets hold a 2-14 record overall with wins over Nebraska-Omaha and Eastern Kentucky. Eastern Michigan will make the trek from Ypsilanti, Mich., with a 4-11 record overall after going 2-3 at the Lipton Invitational last weekend.

Drake has amassed a 6-11 record to start its 2012 season. The Bulldogs went 1-4 last weekend at the Woo Pig Classic in Fayetteville, Ark. Meanwhile Lipscomb is 11-6 including holding a 4-0 mark at home this year. The Lady Bisons are coming off a mid-week doubleheader sweep of Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne.

Middle Tennessee is paced this season at the plate by sophomore Kayla Toney. The Blue Raider second baseman is leading the Sun Belt in batting with a .485 average and is third in the league in both slugging (.818) and on-base percentage (.528). She has also been a threat on the base paths, scoring a team-leading 11 runs so far this season in addition to stealing four bases.

First baseman Kaycee Popham has put together a strong start to her senior campaign. The Silver Creek, Ga., native is tied for fourth in the conference in batting, posting a .412 clip at the dish. She is also tied for the Middle Tennessee team-lead with a pair of home runs while being tops on the squad with nine runs batted in.

Meanwhile fellow senior Kelsey Woodruff has provided the Blue Raiders with consistent power to start the 2012 season. She has tallied two home runs, two doubles and six RBIs to go along with a .375 batting average. The former Riverdale (Tenn.) High School Lady Warrior has also been strong defensively as she maintains a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage as the squad's right fielder.

Each game of the Lady Bison Classic will offer live statistics which will be available courtesy of Lipscomb and can be accessed here. Periodic updates will also be provided via the Middle Tennessee softball social media pages on Twitter @MT_Softball and on Facebook at the MTSU Softball page.

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