Softball returns to road for midweek doubleheaders

MT to face Murray State, Southeast Missouri

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MURRAY, Ky. -- The Middle Tennessee softball team returns to the road this week as the squad heads to face Murray State for a doubleheader on Tuesday before taking on Southeast Missouri in a Wednesday twin bill.

Game 1 of Tuesday's doubleheader against Murray State is set for 2 p.m. CT with the second game following at 4 p.m. The first pitches of Wednesday's contests are scheduled for 3 and 5 p.m.

The Blue Raiders (12-18, 2-7 Sun Belt) are coming off an eight-day break from competition. They were scheduled to face Samford in a doubleheader on Thursday, but the games were postponed due to inclement weather in the Birmingham, Ala., area. The team was also away from the diamond this past weekend in a scheduled weekend off.

Murray State enters Tuesday's play 15-13 overall and 10-7 in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Racers are fresh off taking two-of-three games at Tennessee Tech over Easter weekend. Middle Tennessee and Murray State met once earlier this year at the Tennessee Classic with the Blue Raiders falling 6-4. Southeast Missouri meanwhile holds a 14-24 record overall with a 7-12 clip in the OVC. This past weekend saw the Redhawks drop two-of-three games at home to Jacksonville State. "These doubleheaders are very important for our team," said Middle Tennessee head coach Sue Nevar. "We need to come out and get into a nice groove following our time off. We have to be aggressive and make sure we are solid in all facets of the game heading into this weekend's series against UL-Lafayette." Middle Tennessee has gotten recent offensive lifts from sophomores Kristi Marquez and Nina Dever. Marquez went 4-6 at the plate in the doubleheader with South Alabama on March 31 and has amassed a .412 average over her last six games. Dever also notched a combined four hits in her seven at-bats in the doubleheader with the Jaguars. The Greenbrier, Tenn., native has batted .313 in her last five games while knocking in five runs and scoring three times. Junior college transfer Chelsea Good has also been productive at the plate in 2012. Since entering the

lineup on March 27 against Jacksonville State, she has amassed a .364 average at the dish while adding a pair of runs scored and a stolen base. Shelby Stinnett has propelled Middle Tennessee in the circle of late. The sophomore has tallied a total of 13.1 innings pitched in her last three appearances including hurling two complete games. She has surrendered six earned runs over the span including just two in her complete-game victory against Jacksonville State.

Live stats will be available for both doubleheaders 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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