Last home series on tap for Blue Raiders this weekend

MT holds Senior Day Saturday

May 10, 2012 · Athletic Communications

First Pitch
Friday - 6 p.m.
Saturday - 4 p.m.
Sunday - 1 p.m.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee baseball team will hold its final home series of the 2012 campaign when it welcomes Louisiana to town this weekend. The Blue Raiders and Ragin' Cajuns will square off at 6 p.m. on Friday at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Prior to Saturday's 4 p.m. contest, the Blue Raiders will hold their annual Senior Day festivities, honoring Matthew Drake, Justin Guidry, Nick Montgomery and manager Connor Cutcliffe. On Sunday, all mothers are invited to get in free for the 1 p.m. game in honor of Mother's Day. The Blue Raiders (26-23, 12-12 SBC) will look to keep the momentum going from last Sunday's 13-3 victory at FIU. Although MT dropped the series after losing the first two games to the Panthers, the Blue Raiders rebounded with the resounding run-rule win thanks to a 17-hit performance. MT will change up its weekend rotation for the first time this season, with Jordan Cooper earning the Friday start. Cooper has made six starts this year and holds a 1-2 record with a 3.60 ERA. His last start came at Austin Peay on April 11, where he tossed two innings and allowed one run on one hit. He picked up the win at Tennessee Tech on April 24 after holding the Golden Eagles hitless over three innings and also had a strong outing at Tennessee on Feb. 28. Against the Volunteers, Cooper went 5.1 innings in the start, his longest outing of the season, and gave up just two runs in the contest.

Hunter Adkins will move from Friday to Sunday, while Johnathan Frebis will assume his usual Saturday starting role. Frebis continues to lead the Sun Belt in opponent batting average, with opponents hitting just .213 against the lefty. Trent Miller and Justin Guidry continue to battle it out as the Blue Raiders' top hitter. Miller is hitting .361, while Guidry is just behind with a .360 clip. Guidry holds the advantage in hits, leading the league with 71, compared to Miller's 69. Miller ranks second in the league with a .623 slugging percentage and 12 home runs. MT holds a 16-29 record, including a 6-10 mark at home, against Louisiana under head coach Steve Peterson. Last year, the Ragin' Cajuns claimed two out of three in Lafayette, La. The last time the two teams met in Murfreesboro was in 2008, with Louisiana also taking two games in that series. The Ragin' Cajuns enter Friday's contest with a 21-26 overall and 9-15 league record. Louisiana won the first game against Troy last Friday, but has since dropped three in a row, including a pair to the Trojans and a midweek contest against Tulane. Jordan Nicholson will get the start on Friday, while Chris Griffitt and Austin Robichaux round out the rotation. Offensively, Ryan Leonards leads the Ragin' Cajuns with a .331 average and Dylan Butler has been the top RBI-getter, driving in 41 runs to go along with a team-best seven home runs. All games will air on WMOT 89.5 with Dick Palmer and John Callow on the call.

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