

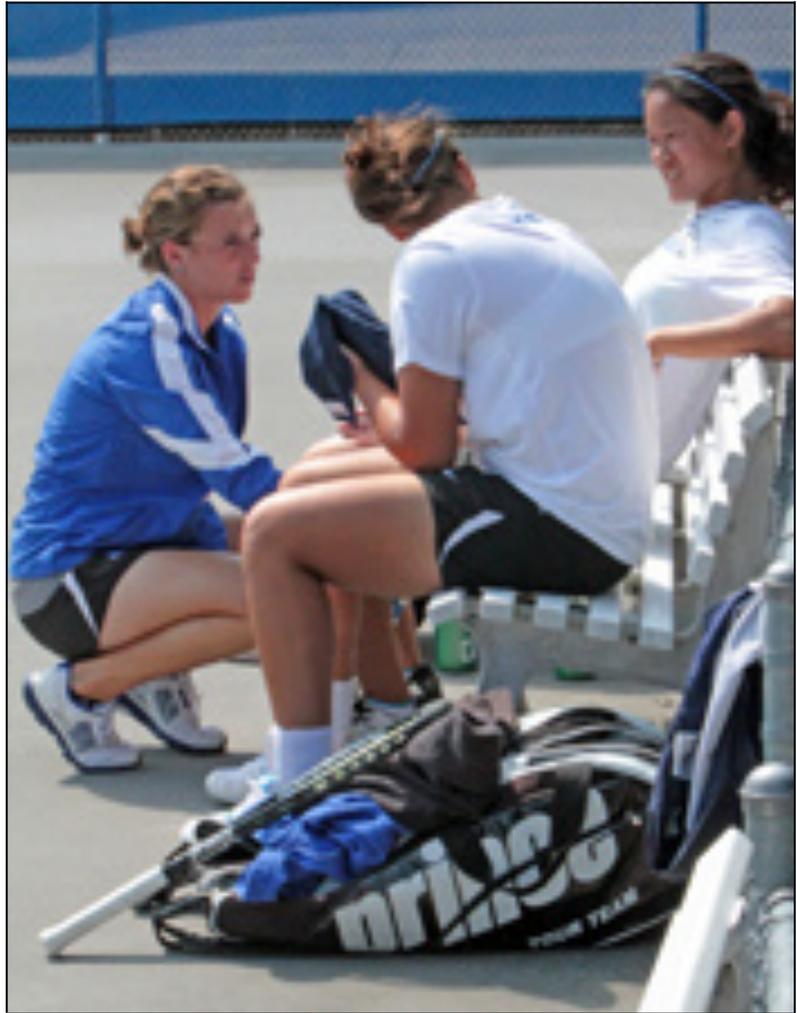
Blue Raiders bring home fourth straight All-Sports Trophy

MT wins eighth trophy in last 12 years

May 22, 2012 · Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

For the eighth time in 12 years since joining the Sun Belt Conference, Middle Tennessee's athletic department has won the Vic Bubas Cup as the top overall sports program in the league. The award is given each year to the university that comes in first in the Sun Belt's all-sports standings. The Blue Raiders, who scored 133.0 total points (out of a possible 189), were presented their eighth trophy Tuesday during the league meetings in Destin, Fla. Middle Tennessee easily won this year's prestigious trophy by a margin of 12.5 points over second place Western Kentucky. Middle Tennessee won or shared four conference championships during the 2011-12 campaign to secure its fourth straight all-sports title



and fifth over the last six years. The Blue Raiders also won the prestigious title in 2001, which was their first year in the SBC, and again in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Middle Tennessee becomes just the third school in Sun Belt history to win the award eight times and no school has won the award more since the Blue Raiders joined the league in 2000-01. "This is one of our main goals as we begin each academic year," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "It's a culmination of the hard work of our student athletes and their drive to compete for championships. We all know what an excellent coaching staff we have as reflected by four earning coach of the year accolades. With all of the great programs in the Sun Belt Conference, this is indeed an honor to be recognized as the best overall. "Everyone in our athletic department, the University, and community should take great pride in this because this was a total team effort and that's the great thing about an All-Sports Championship." Middle Tennessee defeated Western Kentucky for the award, while North Texas was third and South Alabama fourth. The Blue Raiders' All-Sports Championship was bolstered by

regular season titles in men's and women's basketball, and conference post-season championships in women's indoor track and men's tennis. Additionally, four Middle Tennessee coaches earned Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year honors – Chris Adams (women's golf), Jimmy Borendame (men's tennis), Kermit Davis (men's basketball), and Rick Insell (women's basketball). The Blue Raiders aided their cause with a very strong winter and spring. The Blue Raiders had 42 points in four sports during the winter and added 56.5 more points in the spring. Middle Tennessee saw gains in seven sports from the previous season, including women's indoor track, men's basketball, women's basketball, women's tennis, men's golf, men's outdoor track, and baseball. Women's tennis, under first year coach Shelley Godwin, made the most substantial jump by 7.0 points from the previous year while men's golf was second at 4.5 points. Demonstrating tremendous balance, Middle Tennessee earned seven points or more in 12 of the 17 sports it sponsors and 10 or more points in seven sports. Points are awarded based on the number of schools sponsoring the sport. Institutions not sponsoring a sport do not receive points in that sport. Institutions tying for positions split the combined points of their positions. Middle Tennessee sponsors sports in men's cross country, women's cross country, women's soccer, volleyball, football, men's indoor track and field, women's indoor track and field, men's basketball, women's basketball, men's golf, women's golf, men's tennis, women's tennis, softball, men's outdoor track and field, women's outdoor track and field, and baseball. The Blue Raiders do not field teams in men's and women's swimming and diving.

Printed on July 23, 2014

Original URL: <http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/61239>