

Two teams honored by NCAA for APR achievement

Football, men's golf recognized

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INDIANAPOLIS - Two Middle Tennessee athletic programs have earned Public Recognition Awards as released by the NCAA on Thursday. Blue Raider football and men's golf were recognized by the award which is based on their most recent multi-year Academic Progress Rates. It marks the second straight year both programs have been recognized. These awards are given each year to teams scoring in the top 10 percent in each sport with their APRs. The Blue Raiders join Florida Atlantic as the only programs in the Sun Belt to have more than one sport honored. "This speaks to our institutions commitment from Dr. (Sidney) McPhee on down for how we balance academics and championships," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "This success is made possible due to the dedication and hard work of the student-athletes who have the



pressure of balancing academics and the demands of athletics on a daily basis. It is gratifying to know that we win our league's all-sports trophy each year and continue to excel in the classroom." The Blue Raiders were one of just 12 FBS football programs honored by the NCAA with eight being from automatic qualifying conferences and four coming from the non-automatic qualifying leagues. The football programs recognized were Air Force, Boise State, Clemson, Duke, Miami of FL, Middle Tennessee, Northern Illinois, Northwestern, Ohio State, Rice, Rutgers, and Vanderbilt. "We take academics very seriously at Middle Tennessee and to be honored for a second straight year is a

credit to our student-athletes," said Rick Stockstill, head football coach. "Our goal and main priority is for each student-athlete to leave here with a degree in hand." Through its innovative APR, which provides an annual scorecard of academic achievement, the NCAA tracks the classroom performance of student-athletes on every Division I sports team. The most recent APRs are multi-year rates based on scores from the 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 academic years. Full APR scores for all teams, including penalties for low-performing teams, will be released June 20. The 954 teams publicly recognized this year for high achievement 560 women's teams and 394 men's or mixed squads. A total of 263 institutions, out of 347 Division I colleges and universities, placed at least one team on the top APR list. Another eight schools that offer athletics in more than one division, out of 49 overall within the NCAA, placed Division I teams on the list as well. In the seven years of the NCAA's academic reform program, 2,946 different teams have received Public Recognition Awards, representing 46 percent of eligible sports teams during that time. Of that total, 209 teams have received Public Recognition Awards each of the seven years of the program.

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