Meade named pitching coach for Blue Raider baseball

Joins MT staff after five seasons at Eastern Illinois

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee baseball head coach Jim McGuire completed his coaching staff with the hiring of Skylar Meade on Monday. Meade joins the Blue Raider staff as the pitching coach after spending the last five seasons at Eastern Illinois.

"Skylar is one of the best young coaches in the country, and we're excited to have him on the staff," McGuire said. "He has already established himself as a top-notch pitching coach with the best ERA in the OVC for the last three years. He will bring a fresh perspective to our pitchers, and they will thrive under his guidance. With the combination of Skylar and Scott (Hall), we have a pair of outstanding recruiters who have a knack for developing great players."

Meade began his coaching career as a graduate assistant for the Panthers in 2007 before being promoted to a full-time staff member in 2009 when he was named pitching coach and recruiting coordinator.

"It's been a whirlwind couple days, but it's exciting to get down here, and I'm definitely fired up," Meade said. "I like the whole feel of campus and the community. It's really nice and the people around here definitely love MTSU."

During his tenure at EIU, Meade saw a number of his pitchers rack up Ohio Valley Conference accolades in addition to being drafted in the annual Major League Baseball Draft. In four of his five seasons, the Panthers led the OVC in ERA, while finishing second in the league in 2009.

"I probably still have a little bit of a player's mentality, but I think in a good way," Meade said. "I'm a hypercompetitive person with a lot of energy and a different point of view, particularly with the

pitchers. I definitely care about players and development, and those guys will see that very quickly."

In his second year with the staff, EIU captured the 2008 OVC Tournament title and earned a berth to the NCAA Regionals for the second time in school history. Meade assisted in coaching the Panthers to the 2009 OVC regular-season title and a 31-19 record.

Under Meade's direction two Panthers were drafted in 2010, while hurler Tyler Kehrer became EIU's highest drafted player since 1988 when he was taken 48th overall in the 2009 draft. Kehrer led the OVC in 2009 in strikeouts and batting average against.

Meade joined the coaching staff at EIU after his playing career at the University of Louisville. With the Cardinals, Meade anchored a pitching staff that helped lead Louisville to the 2007 College World Series. The left-handed pitcher recorded nine wins in 2007 and limited opposing batters to a .247 average. He concluded his career with a 16-7 record, including a 5-1 mark in conference action.

The Louisville, Ky., native earned a bachelor's degree in sports administration from Louisville in 2007 and completed a master's degree in kinesiology and sports studies (sports management) in the summer of 2009 from EIU.

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