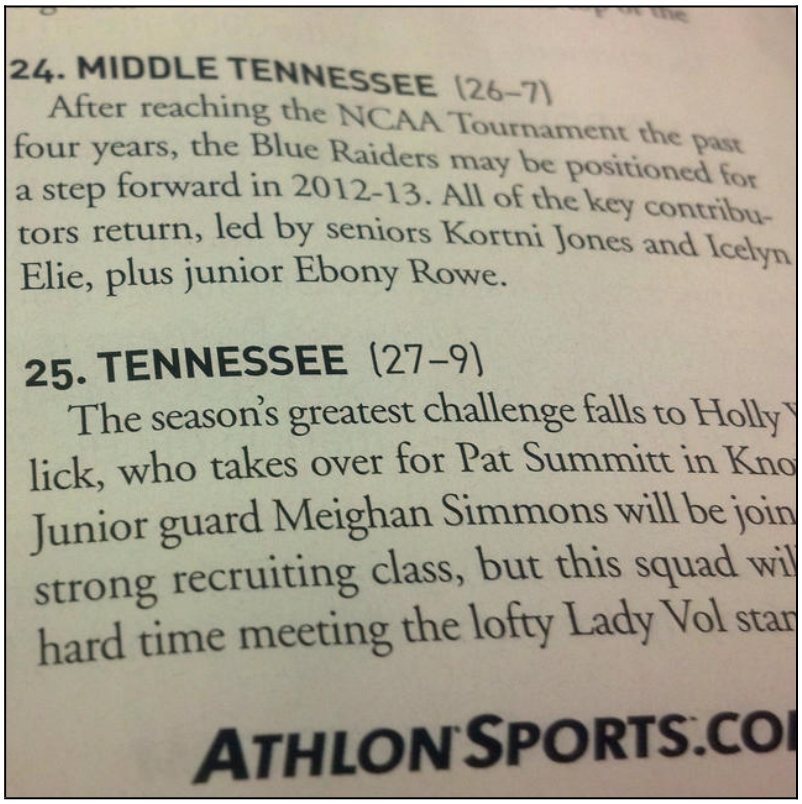
Blue Raiders garner another preseason Top-25 ranking

Athlon Sports Ranks Middle Tennessee No. 24 nationally

September 19, 2012 · @MTAthletics


24. MIDDLE TENNESSEE (26–7)
After reaching the NCAA Tournament the past four years, the Blue Raiders may be positioned for a step forward in 2012-13. All of the key contributors return, led by seniors Kortni Jones and Icelyn Elie, plus junior Ebony Rowe.

25. TENNESSEE (27–9)
The season's greatest challenge falls to Holly
lick, who takes over for Pat Summitt in Kno
Junior guard Meighan Simmons will be join
strong recruiting class, but this squad wil
hard time meeting the lofty Lady Vol star

ATHLON SPORTS.CO

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Preseason recognition continues to accumulate for the Middle Tennessee women's basketball program. MT earned its second preseason Top-25 ranking by a national magazine.

Athlon Sports listed the Blue Raiders as the 24th best team in the country in the College Basketball 2012-13 Preview. The magazine stated that the "Blue Raiders may be positioned for a step forward in 2012-13." Earlier this month, Lindy's magazine ranked the Blue Raiders No. 24 in its annual publication.

> "It's great to see that the national pundits are telling us we are a Top-25 program in the country. That's not where we want to be. But this gives us a platform to be a Top-10 program."

"It's exciting because that tells you what people think about your program," said head coach Rick Insell. "It's great to see that the national pundits are telling us we are a Top-25 program in the country. That's not where we want to be. But this gives us a platform to be a Top-10 program."

Last season, the Raiders posted an unbeaten regular season record in the Sun Belt (16-0) en route to their 15th NCAA Tournament appearance and a 26-7 overall record.

Middle Tennessee will face two opponents ranked in the Athlon Sports; No. 9 Kentucky (Dec. 9) and No. 25 Tennessee (Nov. 28).

The Blue Raiders return 10 letterwinners from a year ago and all five starters. Among those include Ebony Rowe, who garnered WBCA All-Region 4 Team honors after averaging 16.3 points and 10.1 rebounds per game last season.

Also back in the mix for the Blue Raiders is Kortni Jones, who posted 16.8 points per contest and led the team with 115 three-pointers.

"A lot of teams across the country would like to be preseason ranked right now," said Insell. "Now, we have to live up to those expectations."

MT opens the regular season on Nov. 9 by hosting Kennesaw State in the WNIT. Season tickets for women's basketball are on sale now for $100. Fans can purchase a combo pack for men's and women's basketball season tickets for just $199. Click here for more details.

Printed on May 24, 2013
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/62830