Cunningham lost for the season

Senior was third nationally in scoring and 13th in rushing

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MURFREESBORO - Middle Tennessee Head Coach Rick Stockstill announced today that senior running back Benny Cunningham will be lost for the remainder of the season due to a knee injury. Results from his MRI came back today and revealed the damage suffered in Saturday's game at FIU on his left knee. He will undergo surgery by the end of the week.

"It's very unfortunate on a personal level because Benny is one of the hardest working and competitive players I have ever coached," said Stockstill. "I feel like he has been short-changed the last couple of years because of injuries. I have no doubt he will get fully recovered and have a shot at continuing his playing career at the professional level."

Cunningham, out of Nashville, Tenn., was having the best year of his career with 600 yards rushing in five games played and 11 touchdowns. He is currently leading the Sun Belt Conference in rushing and scoring, while ranking 13th and third nationally in each category.

The Doak Walker candidate was coming off his second 200-yard rushing game of the season with a career-high 230 yards on 36 attempts in the win at FIU. Cunningham also had 217 yards on the ground in Middle Tennessee's upset win at Georgia Tech earlier this season. He is the first back at MT to have two 200-yard rushing games in the same season since Dwone Hicks in 2001.

Cunningham, a two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week this season, ended his career with 1,629 rushing yards and 21 rushing touchdowns (23 overall).

The Blue Raiders have junior Drayton Calhoun and freshman Jordan Parker at the top of the depth chart at running back. Freshman Jeremiah Bryson and junior William Pratcher will also get work at the position.

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