

Raider Report: First official week of practice in the books

17 days until the exhibition

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Blue Raider men's basketball team (@MT_MBB) wrapped up its first official week of practice Friday morning. Here's a quick take on happenings in the program as Middle Tennessee counts down to the exhibition versus Auburn-Montgomery on Nov. 5.

COACH'S COMMENT (@MT_CoachDavis)

"The start of practice coincided with fall break, so we spent lot more time in the gym for the first four days," head coach Kermit Davis said.

"I thought our team made good progress until Thursday when we hit a little bit of a wall. But we bounced back well early Friday morning.

"The emphasis this week has been on defending, rebounding, sharing the ball and just building on last year. Overall, I've been pleased with the effort and now we'll take a day off before we get back on the court Sunday."

BLUE RAIDER TIPOFF CELEBRATION

The inaugural Blue Raider Tipoff Celebration scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 24, is nearly sold out. ESPN basketball analyst Jimmy Dykes will serve as the keynote speaker, while country music artist Aaron Tippin and senior guard Marcos Knight will also perform. The event will be held at MTSU's student union beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Blue Raider Ticket Office at 1-888-YES-MTSU.

RECEIVING VOTES

On the heels a record-breaking season, the 2012-13 Blue Raider men's basketball team is already receiving recognition in the USA Today coaches' preseason poll released on Wednesday. Middle Tennessee, the Sun Belt's only representative in the poll, received three votes after winning the



league's regular season title and finishing 27-7 last season.

SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets are also on sale now for \$140, or purchase both men's and women's season tickets for \$199. Price includes a ticket to the Blue Raiders' game against the Commodores at Bridgestone Arena. To purchase, call the Blue Raider Ticket Office or to buy online, click [here](#).

MT opens the 2012-13 campaign on Nov. 5 in an exhibition against Auburn-Montgomery at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders' regular season begins Nov. 9 when MT hosts Alabama State at 7:45 p.m.

NEW MURALS

Men's basketball has been busy this summer with a couple of new additions to the Murphy Center walls. Fans will notice a mural commemorating the 71-64 NIT victory over Tennessee last season at the northeast entrance of Murphy Center. Around the corner, there is also a new mural featuring the MT student section.

INJURY UPDATE

Senior guard Jason Jones and junior guard Kerry Hammonds are both expected to return to practice next week. Hammonds suffered a deep bone bruise on his knee two weeks ago, while Jones tweaked a hamstring last week.

FIVE FUN FACTS WITH JUNIOR FORWARD SHAWN JONES

If you played baseball, what would your walk-up song be?

Hustlin' by Rick Ross

What one person would you want to follow you on Twitter?

Amare Stoudemire

If they made a movie about your life, who would you want to play you?

Denzel Washington

You wouldn't be caught dead, where?

The Opera

What is one thing you must do or superstition you have prior to a game?

Pre-game nap and listen to rap/hip-hop music

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