

Raider Report: 10 days from tipoff at Murphy Center

Blue Raiders host Auburn-Montgomery Nov. 5

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Murfreesboro, Tenn. - With the exhibition just 10 days away, the Blue Raider men's basketball team is in the thick of preseason practice. Here's a quick take on happenings in the program as Middle Tennessee (@MT_MBB) counts down to the exhibition versus Auburn-Montgomery on Nov. 5.

TIPOFF CELEBRATION RECAP

Nearly 600 Blue Raider fans gathered at MT's student union on Wednesday night to take part in the inaugural Blue Raider Tipoff Celebration. The event featured ESPN

basketball analyst Jimmy Dykes, in addition to performances by Aaron and Thea Tippin and senior guard Marcos Knight. Following the event, Blue Raider nation was all abuzz about hoops season.

"The buzz was in the program last year, but I wouldn't say it's back now," MTSU fan Marshall Campbell told the Daily News Journal. "I'd actually say the buzz never left. It's still here and growing. Look at this and you can see it."

DENDY UPDATE

The regular season is underway for former Blue Raider LaRon Dendy. The 2012 Sun Belt Player of the Year has started both games for Kolossos this year, tallying 21 points, five rebounds and a pair of blocks in 34 minutes of action to lead the Greek team to an 82-80 double-overtime victory in the opener. Dendy added 13 points in the following contest to help Kolossos to the 2-0 start. The Greenville, S.C., native is currently the team's second-leading scorer, averaging 17.0 points per game. The season continues Friday and will run into May.

COACHES VS. CANCER

Head coach Kermit Davis will participate in the Coaches vs. Cancer Tip-Off Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 1. Davis joins five other Division I head coaches from the Middle Tennessee area in the fight



against cancer. The event will be held at Belmont's Curb Event Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$35 for general admission and \$25 for students. For more information, click [here](#).

BLUE RAIDERS PICKED TO WIN EAST

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team was picked unanimously to win the Sun Belt's East Division according to the preseason coaches' poll released by the league on Wednesday.

Four Blue Raiders were selected to the preseason all-conference teams, the most of any school. Senior guard Marcos Knight earned a first-team nod, senior forward JT Sulton and senior guard Bruce Massey were voted to the second team, and senior guard Raymond Cintron was named to the third team.

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 at 1-888-YES-MTSU 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.

INJURY UPDATE

Both senior guard Jason Jones and junior guard Kerry Hammond returned to practice this week. Hammonds suffered a deep bone bruise on his knee three weeks ago, while Jones tweaked a hamstring two weeks ago.

FIVE FUN FACTS WITH SENIOR GUARD MARCOS KNIGHT

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy?

Put money away for my son and buy my mother and grandmother a house

What is your favorite food?

Cream corn, yams and fried chicken

If you could have any super power for a day, what would it be?

Ruling the world

What is one place in the world you'd like to visit?

Hawaii

Who is the best dancer on the team?

Torin Walker

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