

WBB Notebook: Raiders earn votes in coaches' poll

Exhibition versus Alabama-Huntsville Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

With just two days left until the first exhibition game, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball program was ranked 32nd in the USA TODAY SPORTS/ESPN Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

The Blue Raiders grabbed 28 votes for 32nd overall in the poll released on Tuesday afternoon. MT posted a 26-7 overall record with a perfect 16-0 mark in Sun Belt action last season. The Raiders made their fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament.



Baylor was voted the unanimous top team in the country after recording a 40-0 record last season. Two Blue Raider opponents earned rankings. Kentucky was seventh in the poll, while Tennessee ranked 16th.

Last week, Middle Tennessee was voted 27th in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll. Two preseason publications, Athlon and Lindy's, ranked the Raiders No. 24 in the country.

Q&A with Janiece Johnson

GoBlueRaiders.com recently sat down with junior Janiece Johnson to talk about the upcoming season. Johnson spent two seasons at Chipola Junior College where she averaged 10 points and nine rebounds last season. Johnson is the tallest Blue Raider in program history with a height of 6' 7".

Q: How has your experience been so far at MT?

A: The experience has been great. I love the town and the people. My teammates are nice. It's like one big family.

Q: Why did you decide to become a Blue Raider?

A: When I first came here, I noticed how everyone really appreciated each other. I am real big on family atmosphere. I like that about this program.

Q: How has Head Coach Rick Insell helped you so far?

A: He has helped me get mentally tough and become more aggressive. You can describe my style of play as being aggressive and tough.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I love playing video games such as NBA 2K13. My favorite team is the Miami Heat.

Exhibition Set for Thursday

The Blue Raiders host NCAA Division II foe Alabama-Huntsville on Thursday evening. Tipoff with the Lady Chargers is slated for 5:30 p.m. Earlier this month, UAH was ranked 21st in the Women's Division II Bulletin Preseason Top 25. The Chargers boasted a 23-7 record a year ago and their first ever NCAA Tournament appearance under the direction of head coach Roy Heintz. Tickets for Thursday's exhibition can be purchased by calling the MTSU Ticket Office at 1-888-YES-MTSU or by [purchasing online](#).

Watch on the Web

The two exhibition games will be streamed online at GoBlueRaiders.com. Fans can listen to play-by-play voice Dick Palmer call the action.

Season Tickets Still Available

Men's and women's basketball combo pack season tickets are just \$199. Women's season tickets are also sold individually for \$100. Season tickets for Middle Tennessee women's basketball games are on sale now by calling the MTSU Ticket Office at 1-888-YES-MTSU or [purchasing online](#).

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