MT hosts Memphis in second round of WNIT

Sunday's contest slated for 2 p.m. on ESPN3

November 10, 2012 · MT Athletic Communications

The second round of the WNIT continues on Sunday at the Murphy Center when the Blue Raiders host in-state rival Memphis in a 2 p.m. contest. The game will be aired live on ESPN3 and the radio broadcast can be heard on the Blue Raider Network.

GAME INFORMATION
Opponent: Memphis (1-0), second round of the WNIT
Date: Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Arena: Murphy Center (11,520)
Tickets: 1-888-YES-MTSU or GoBlueRaiders.com

SERIES INFORMATION
Overall: Series tied at 8-8
At MT: Series tied at 8-8
First Meeting: MT 75, UM 52 - March 4, 1976 - Johnson City, Tenn.
Last Meeting: MT 89, UM 83 - Dec. 19, 2002
Under Rick Insell: First Meeting

Media Information
Live Broadcast: ESPN3.com
Play-by-Play: Chip Walters
Color Analyst: Kyle Turnham
Radio: WMOT (89.5 FM)/WGNS (1450 AM, 101.9 FM, 100.5 FM)
Play-by-Play: Dick Palmer
Color Analyst: Duane Hickey

QUICK HITTERS• MT (1-0) soared past Kennesaw State in the first round of the WNIT with an 87-45 win over the Owls Friday evening in front of 5,806 fans at the Murphy Center. The crowd was the seventh largest in school history, surpassing the mark of 5,505 set against Florida Atlantic on Feb.

24, 2007.
• Ebony Rowe notched a game-best 23 points and moved to 21st all-time in career scoring, while moving to third all-time with 338 career offensive rebounds.
• Senior G Kortni Jones moved to eighth all time with 178 career triples, passing Raider legend Patrick Holmes. The Oak Ridge native also moved into eighth in career attempts with 512.
• MT earned votes in three preseason polls. The Blue Raiders were ranked No. 23 nationally in the ESPN.com preseason Top 25 poll. MT was voted 27th in the Associated Press Top 25 poll, while garnering 33rd in the USA Today Sports / ESPN Coaches' preseason poll.

NOTES

Honoring our Veterans/Toys for Tots
Middle Tennessee will honor all current and former military personnel and their families with free admission to Sunday's game. The athletic department is recognizing those in honor of Veterans Day. MT Athletics is also accepting Toys for Tots donations at entrances throughout the Murphy Center. Fans are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy, which will be given to a local child in need this holiday season.

Among the Nation's Elite Middle Tennessee's basketball programs garnered a total of seven All-Sun Belt Conference honors in the preseason. Only Marist of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) had that many between two programs. St. Joseph's, Baylor, Toledo, Davidson, North Dakota State, and Memphis each had a combined five preseason all-conference selections.

Earning the Respect Middle Tennessee is just one of seven schools that has football, men's and women's basketball teams receiving votes or ranked in ESPN/USA Today Coaches Polls. MT, Notre Dame, Michigan, Louisville, Georgia, Stanford and UCLA are the only programs to boast that accomplishment.

In-Season Tournament History• Middle Tennessee plays in its third in-season tournament in three years.
• Last year, the Raiders went 1-1 at the Lady Lion Classic, Nov. 11-13, in University Park, Pa. MT defeated UNC Wilmington, 79-60, before falling to Penn State, 65-49.
• MT owns a 9-3 record under Insell in five in-season tournaments. MT has won five out of their last six games in tournament action.
•The Blue Raiders own a 64-54 all-time record during 54 in-season tournaments during the program's history.

About the WNIT• For the second time in the Insell era, the Blue Raiders are participating in the Preseason WNIT Tournament. MT opened the 2008-09 campaign with a win over Lafayette College before falling to No. 2 Oklahoma and rebounding against Indiana.
• MT and Memphis have met on 16 previous occasions with both teams tied at eight in the all-time series.
• The winner of Sunday's contest will travel north to Iowa if the Hawkeyes defeat Illinois State. Plans could change pending the outcome of the Iowa/ISU game. Details of the WNIT semifinals will be announced early Sunday evening.

Blue Raiders vs. Conference USA• Middle Tennessee is 18-25 all-time against Conference USA opponents. Under Coach Insell's direction, the Raiders are 4-1 against C-USA opponents. MT holds

a 2-0 mark against Houston and UCF, while it's only blemish is to UAB. MT last played a C-USA opponent when the Raiders won 77-73 at UCF on Dec. 7, 2010.

The First Time vs. Opponents• Middle Tennessee owns a 33-21 record when facing an opponent for the first time under Rick Insell's watch. Memphis and MT are meeting for the first time since Insell took over the program in 2005.

Set for the Tube • Sunday's ESPN3 broadcast with Memphis is the first of six televised games this season.

Scouting Memphis• The Lady Tigers are coming off a 92-42 thrashing of Grambling State on Friday evening. Memphis shot 56 percent (40-of-71) from the field and held GSU to under 24 percent shooting on the night.
• Three Tigers reached double-figures as freshman Mooriah Rowser led the way with 12 field goals for 24 points, along with eight rebounds and four steals. Preseason All-Conference honoree Nicole Dickson added 20 points and seven rebounds in the blowout.
• UM was selected to finish fifth in the C-USA Preseason Coaches' poll. Tulane is the prohibitive favorite with five first place votes. However, the Lady Tigers received one first place ranking.
• Coach Melissa McFerrin has led the Lady Tigers to three consecutive 20-plus win campaigns, including a 25-8 mark last season. McFerrin is in her fifth season with Memphis. She previously coached at American University for four seasons.

Series with the Lady Tigers The series with Middle Tennessee and Memphis is even at eight apiece. Middle Tennessee has won the previous two meetings, including an 89-83 victory on Dec. 19, 2002. The series began on March 4, 1976 when MT picked up a 75-52 win in the TCWSF State Tournament. The Blue Raiders and Lady Tigers are even in the Murphy Center with both programs split at 3-3.

Continuing to Rowe• Junior Ebony Rowe received her 1,000-point club ball on Nov. 9 against KSU and decided she needed to move up the scoring charts.
• The Lexington native scored 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the victory to move to 21st all-time in scoring. Rowe passed Joanne Aluka's mark of 1,090 points. She is just 89 pionts shy of moving into the top-20.
• Rowe joins Priscilla Robinson as the only Blue Raider to reach 1,000 in her sophomore campaign. Two other players (Alysha Clark and Amber Holt) surpassed 1,000 points in only two seasons, but both transferred into the program and began playing as juniors.
• Rowe became the 26th member and the 10th to play at least one season for head coach Rick Insell.
Doubling History
• Junior Ebony Rowe moved into a tie with Robin Hendrix for fifth all-time in career double-doubles on Nov. 9 against KSU. Rowe is just five shy of reaching the all-time leader in Priscilla Robinson.
• Rowe has 33 double-figure rebounding games and has totaled 62 double-figure scoring contests.
Off the Glass
• Against Kennesaw State, Ebony Rowe moved past Patrice Holmes with nine rebounds off the offensive glass.
• Rowe ranks third all-time with 338, passing Stephanie Capley's benchmark of 336. The junior is just eight shy of moving into second.
• Rowe is just nine shy of moving into 14th past Blue Raider Tia Stovall in total rebounds. Rowe has

657 so far in her career.

Insell Climbing List• Rick Insell became the fourth head coach in school history to reach the 150-win plateau when he guided the Blue Raiders to a 59-49 victory over South Dakota State Nov. 17, 2011.
• Insell accomplished the feat in 198 games, by far the fastest in school history and the only one of the quartet to reach the milestone in less than 200 games.
• Insell now stands just seven victories shy of tying Lewis Bivens for the all-time record.
• Insell joins current Blue Raider men's coach, Kermit Davis, in a race to catch Bivens as the winningest basketball coach in school history. Davis became the winningest men's coach last season, surpassing Jimmy Earle.

Jones Sets New Marks • Kortni Jones moved up the record books in the win over Kennesaw State.

• The senior's five triples against KSU moved her past Blue Raider great Patrice Holmes for eighth in MT history, giving her 178 total in her career.
• The Oak Ridge native also moved to eighth all-time with 512 three-point attempts. She is 14 shy of moving into seventh place.

1,000-point Club Watch• Two Blue Raiders are on the verge of becoming the 27th and 28th members of the MT 1,000-point club.
• Kortni Jones has 871 points and is just 129 shy of reaching that plateau.
• Senior Icelyn Elie is 166 shy as she has accumulated 834 points in three-plus seasons.

Printed on May 25, 2013
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/63940