

ESPN.com: Ebony Rowe rules court, classroom

Junior forward highlighted for her academic and athletic accomplishments

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Few people can stop Ebony Rowe when she gets going.

On the basketball court, that reality is most definitely Middle Tennessee's gain. The latest in a long line of undersized and overlooked All-America candidates for the Blue Raiders, Rowe is a relentless force in the post. She put up 25 points and 16 rebounds in 40 minutes in her first college game, against Big East member South Florida, three seasons ago, and has yet to ease off the throttle. The 6-foot-1 forward averaged a double-double as a freshman and again as a sophomore.

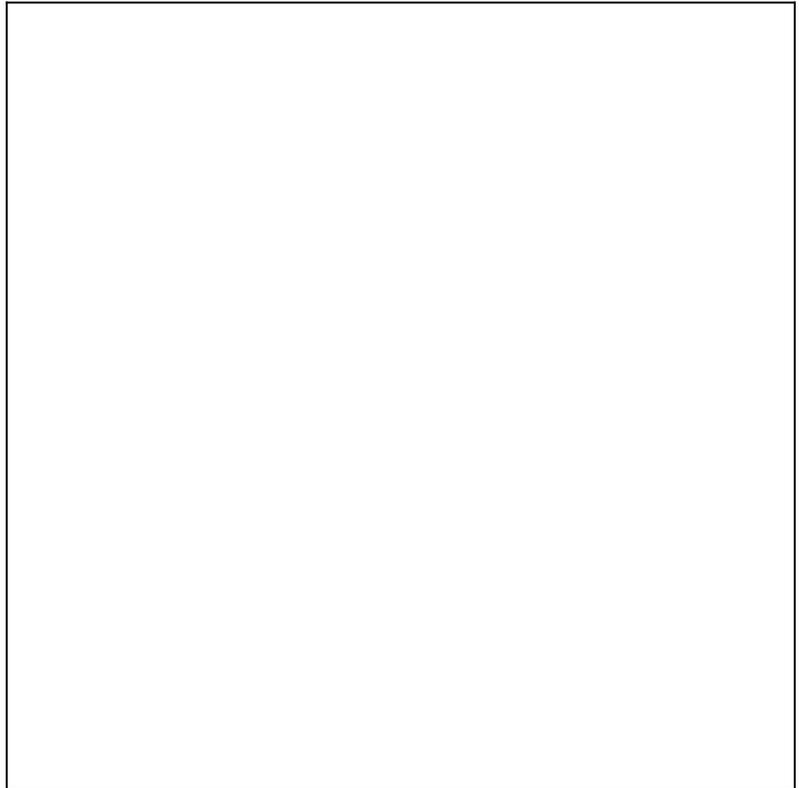
And through the first five games of her junior season, wouldn't you know it, she's averaging 19.8 points and 10.2 rebounds per game.

For Janay Brinkley, on the other hand, it's not such a great thing off the court. It seems the Blue Raiders teammates, roommates and best friends can't go anywhere in the car without Rowe, a physics major who plans to pursue a career in engineering, interrupting whatever music or conversation might be under way to explain why, for example, the exit ramp they are in the process of taking was designed the way it was.

Like so many opposing defenders over the years, Brinkley is helpless to stop her. And Brinkley can't even foul her.

"Ebony, I don't care about this. I'm an advertising and marketing major; you don't have to explain this to me," Brinkley recalled typically, and futilely, protesting. "But she'll sit there and explain it to me. That's just how she is; she really likes what she does."

This is why coach Rick Insell says he contemplated going back to school to get another degree



when he signed Rowe, if only so he could understand what she was talking about. It's also why one of his favorite rebukes in those rare moments she gets something wrong in practice is to offer the sarcastic suggestion that she would have gotten it right if it had been a physics problem.

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