# Blue Raiders head to ULM to take on Warhawks Saturday

## Tipoff slated for 4 p.m. CT in Monroe, La.

January 11, 2013 · @MTAthletics

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -** Middle Tennessee men's basketball hits the road once again, traveling to ULM for a 4 p.m. contest on Saturday at Fant-Ewing Coliseum in Monroe, La.

**GAME INFORMATION**
Matchup: Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (13-4, 5-1 SBC) at ULM Warhawks (3-9, 2-4 SBC)
Date: Saturday, Jan. 12
Time: 4 p.m. CT
Location: Monroe, La.
Facility: Fant-Ewing Coliseum

**MEDIA INFORMATION**
Radio: WNSR (560 AM)/WGNS (1450 AM, 101.9 FM, 100.5 FM)/WMOT (89.5)
Play-by-Play: Chip Walters

Live Video - Live Audio - Live Stats

Twitter: @MTAthletics, @MT_MBB

**SERIES INFORMATION**

- Overall: MT leads, 7-6 // As Sun Belt foes: MT leads, 5-3
- In Monroe: MT leads, 4-2
- Under Davis: MT leads, 5-3First meeting: MT 73, ULM 69 (12/2/72 in Monroe)
- First Sun Belt meeting: ULM 67, MT 65 (12/17/06 in Murfreesboro)
- Last meeting: MT 94, ULM 61 (2/23/12 in Monroe)
- Current Streak: MT, 5 games
- Longest MT streak: 5 games (3/5/08 - present) // Longest ULM streak: 4 games (12/30/89 - 1/24/08)
- Noteworthy: MT has not lost to ULM since Jan. 24, 2008, when the Warhawks captured an 82-

69 win in Monroe.

**BLUE RAIDER FASTBREAK POINTS**

- Kermit Davis is currently tied for fourth on the Sun Belt's list of all-time winningest coaches, matching Dickey Nutt with 103 career league wins. As the winningest active coach, Davis needs just 10 wins to become the conference's all-time winningest coach, surpassing Ronnie Arrow with 112.
- MT is undefeated at 9-0 in home games this season, including one at Bridgestone Arena, and holds a 23-2 record at Murphy Center over the past two seasons. The Blue Raiders have won 21 straight regular-season games at Murphy Center.
- MT has won six of the last seven games.
- MT has now reached the 10-win mark before the new year for two straight seasons.
- MT is one of 20 teams in the country 9-0 or better at home this year.
- MT currently ranks 14th nationally in 3-point field goal percentage defense (.277).
- After starting last season 4-0 and with the 5-1 start this season, MT got off to its best back-to-back starts since the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seaons. MT started 1986-87 5-0 and 1987-88 6-1.
- The Knight brothers combined for 35 points at Arkansas State and both Tweety and Marcos had career-highs in scoring. Marcos tallied 23 points and Tweety added 12.
- MT was unanimously picked to win the Sun Belt East Division this year by the league's head coaches.
- Four Blue Raiders earned preseason all-conference honors. Marcos Knight was named to the first team, JT Sulton and Bruce Massey to the second team and Raymond Cintron to the third team.
- Raymond Cintron was rated as the No. 39 shooter in the country according to CBSSports.com's Top 50 shooters.

**SCOUTING ULM**

- The Warhawks are coming off a 64-55 loss at Troy on Thursday
- Amos Olatayo leads three Warhawks averaging double-figure scoring with 13.4 ppg
- Trent Mackey (11.4 ppg) and Jayon James (10.4 ppg) are also avergaing double figures
- James also leads ULM in rebounding with 7.3 rebounds per game
- ULM is 2-3 at home, including a 1-2 mark in Sun Belt play

**LAST TIME OUT**

Powered by a 26-0 run over 11:10, Middle Tennessee defeated the Florida Atlantic Owls 62-52 Thursday night at Murphy Center. Marcos Knight led the Blue Raiders with 13 points, scoring 11 in the second half. MT opened the game on a 6-0 run, but Florida Atlantic's duo of Greg Gantt and Stefan Moody powered a 22-10 run to give the Owls a 22-16 lead with 8:15 remaining in the half. Florida Atlantic led 24-19 with 7:26 to go in the half when a Bruce Massey layup sparked a 16-0 Blue Raiders run that gave MT a 35-24 lead. James Gallman scored five points during the half-ending scoring spurt, including a three-point play at the end of the stanza.

**SUN BELT'S WINNINGEST COACH**

With South Alabama's Ronnie Arrow retiring earlier this season, Kermit Davis is now the Sun Belt's winningest active coach. He is one of only four league coaches to crack the century mark and is tied with Dickey Nutt for fourth all-time with 103 league wins, behind Arrow (112) and Gene Bartow (111).

**SUSTAINED LEADERSHIP**

On Jan. 5, MT women's basketball head coach Rick Insell earned his 183rd win to become the program's all-time winningest coach. Insell joined MT men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis, who set the school record on Dec. 29, 2011, as an all-time wins leader. MT is just one of four schools (Gonzaga, Sacred Heart and UALR) to have both their current men's and women's basketball coaches as all-time wins leaders.

**HOME SWEET HOME**

MT has continued to defend its home court this season after finishing 15-2 in Murphy Center last year. The Blue Raiders are 9-0 in home games, including a win at Bridgestone Arena, and haven't lost a regular-season game in Murphy Center since Nov. 20, 2011 when MT dropped an 87-84 double overtime decision to Belmont. That's 21 straight regular-season victories in Murphy Center for the Blue Raiders. MT is now 23-2 over the last two seasons in Murphy Center.

**RANKINGS**

MT is currently ranked 43rd in the NCAA RPI, 44th in the Sagarin Ratings and 44th according to the Pomeroy College Basketball Ratings. The Blue Raiders are the highest ranked Sun Belt team in all ratings. The Blue Raiders are also ranked No. 4 in the Bleacher Report's Mid-Major Top 25 and 13th in CBS' Power Pyramid.

**BENCH PRODUCTION**

With 10 of the top 12 scorers returning from last season's team, it's no surprise that MT has a deep bench. The Blue Raider bench has outscored its opponent in all but one game this season, currently owning a 498-230 advantage.

**SWITCHING IT UP**

Head coach Kermit Davis has used 10 different starting lineups this year. Through the first five games, Davis used five different lineups. In all, 11 different Blue Raiders have started at least one game this year.

**DEEP BENCH**

All 10 Blue Raiders that saw action at Louisiana on Nov. 29 also scored in the contest. Seven different Blue Raiders have been the leading scorer and nine Blue Raiders have combined for 43 double-figure scoring performances.

**MORE ON THE DEPTH**

MT currently has 10 players averaging more than 10 minutes per game. Eight of those are averaging more than 18 minutes.

**DOMINATING DEFENSE**

MT held North Texas to 18.5 percent shooting in the first half of the Dec. 31 contest. That is the best field goal percentage defense for the Blue Raiders since Feb. 1, 2007 when MT held Denver to 18.2 percent (4-for-22) in the second half. MT also held North Texas to five field goals in the first half, a season-low for an opponent. It was the fewest field goals for an opponent in a half since Arkansas State had five on Jan. 19, 2012 in the second half.

**OUT-REBOUNDING OPPONENTS**

The Blue Raiders have out-rebounded their opponent in 12 contests this season. MT currently owns

a 633-549 rebounding advantage, an average of 37.2 compared to 32.3.

**TAKING ON THE SEC**

With the win over Vanderbilt on Dec. 21, MT has now beaten two SEC opponents in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history. MT also beat Ole Miss on Dec. 8. The Blue Raiders defeated both Tennessee and Ole Miss last season.

The win over Ole Miss this year also marked the first win over an SEC opponent in Murphy Center since a 93-90 overtime victory against Vanderbilt on Feb. 1, 1995. MT is now 2-1 against the SEC this year (Lost to No. 10 Florida on Nov. 18) and has won four of the last six meetings against SEC opponents.

**KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES**

Shawn Jones raked in the Sun Belt and Tennessee Sports Writers Association Player of the Week awards on Nov. 27 after posting a pair of double-doubles against UCF and Texas Southern. He tallied 18 points and 13 rebounds, both career-highs, in a 75-61 win over UCF. The Hialeah, Fla., native followed that up by setting a new career-high with 21 points and also grabbed 12 boards in a 79-52 victory over Texas Southern. For the week, Jones averaged 19.5 points and 12.5 rebounds while shooting 66.7 percent from the field.

He earned his second TSWA weekly honor on Jan. 3 after averaging 11.3 points and 7.5 rebounds in leading the Blue Raiders to a 4-0 record over a two-week period. He posted a pair of double-figure scoring performances, including his third double-double of the season with 15 points and 13 rebounds against FIU. The Hialeah, Fla., native scored 13 points versus Tennessee State and registered eight points and nine boards in a victory over Vanderbilt at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

**ESPN2 RETURNS**

The Blue Raiders Jan. 26 home game against WKU has been selected by ESPN2 as the Sun Belt's Wildcard Game. Last year, the Blue Raiders played twice on ESPN2 in Murphy Center, earning a 68-60 win over UALR on Feb. 11 before falling to Minnesota, 78-72, in the quarterfinals of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). The last time MT and WKU met on ESPN2 was Jan. 23, 2010, when former Blue Raider Desmond "Boogie" Yates scored 28 points and became the school's all-time leading scorer in an 84-74 MT victory in Bowling Green, Ky.

**TEAM OF THE WEEK**

Middle Tennessee was named the Mid-Major Team of the Week by ESPN.com's Myron Medcalf on Dec. 13. The Blue Raiders earned the nod after knocking off Ole Miss, 65-62.

**HIGH SCORING**

The 97 points against Alabama State on Nov. 9 marked the most since MT scored 109 against Houston Baptist on Feb. 13, 2010. MT cracked the 90 plateau twice last season, scoring 90 against Austin Peay and 94 against ULM.

**CINTRON RECEIVES RECOGNITION**

Raymond Cintron was listed at No. 39 on CBSSports.com's Top 50 shooters for the 2012-13 season after hitting. The San Juan, Puerto Rico, native currently ranks fifth in the Sun Belt with a 42.7 3-point field goal percentage and leads the team with 33 3-pointers this year. Against Akron on Dec. 2, Cintron sank four 3-pointers en route to a career-high 22 points. He tied his career-high of five 3-

pointers against Tennessee State on Dec. 18.

Middle Tennessee will also face four shooters on the list throughout the 2012-13 season. Florida's Erik Murphy, Texas Southern's Omar Strong, Belmont's Ian Clark and Tennessee State's Robert Covington were listed among the top 50.

**BROTHERLY LOVE**

The 2012-13 MT squad features two sets of brothers. Marcos Knight is the older brother of Tweety Knight, with both joining the Blue Raiders via Chipola Junior College. Zane Gibson is the older brother of Gavin Gibson, both coming to MT from Baylor School.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW**

Kermit Davis, a former assistant coach at Idaho, is one of four current head coaches that comprised the 1986-87 Idaho staff.
Tim Floyd - Head Coach (now HC at UTEP)

Larry Eustachy - Assistant Coach (now HC at Colorado State)

Kermit Davis - Assistant Coach (now HC at Middle Tennessee State)

Randy Bennett - Graduate Assistant (now HC at Saint Mary's)

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