

Blue Raiders announce football dates

ECU first C-USA home game

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

An attractive home schedule with three first-time visitors and a non-conference slate with ACC power North Carolina and tradition rich BYU highlight the 2013 Middle Tennessee football schedule as announced by Director of Athletics Chris Massaro.

The Blue Raiders' home schedule will include Western Carolina, Memphis, East Carolina, Marshall, FIU and UTEP. The road contests will

see the Blue Raiders facing UNC, FAU, BYU, North Texas, UAB, and Southern Miss.



The Conference USA television package will be determined in the spring and there is a chance one or two Saturday games could move to Thursday. Conference USA's national television partners are Fox Sports Media Group and CBS Sports Network for regular season games. The league's ninth annual Championship Game, pitting the champions of the East and West Divisions, is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 and will be televised by ESPN or ESPN 2.

"This will be the most highly anticipated home schedule in the history of our school," said Massaro. "It's our first Conference USA season and to have a quality program like East Carolina as your opening C-USA home game is special."

The season will get underway on Thursday August 29 at home against Western Carolina. The Blue Raiders and Catamounts have not played since 1981.

The Blue Raiders will then hit the road to face ACC foe North Carolina in Chapel Hill. This will mark the first-ever meeting between the two programs in football and will be the eighth straight year the Blue Raiders have faced a team from the ACC. Middle Tennessee is 3-2 against the ACC in its last five meetings with wins over Maryland (2008, 2009) and at Georgia Tech last season.

An in-state battle with Memphis on September 14 will see the Blue Raiders back at Floyd Stadium. MT has won four of the last five against the Tigers, including five straight in Murfreesboro.

Middle Tennessee will then hit the road for two straight. The Blue Raiders will head to FAU on Sept.

21 for their first-ever Conference USA game and six days later will take to the mountains to face BYU on Sept. 27. BYU will mark the final non-conference game of the season.

The Blue Raiders will return to Floyd Stadium on Oct. 5 to host East Carolina in what will be the first Conference USA home game. MT and ECU have never met in football.

Next up will be a trip to the Lone Star State as the Blue Raiders will tangle with North Texas in a C-USA matchup in Denton. The Raiders defeated UNT last season and have won three of the last four in Denton.

Middle Tennessee will host Marshall on October 19 for the Thundering Herds first visit to Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders and Herd met in 1992 and 1994 in Huntington during the I-AA Playoffs with Marshall winning both contests.

Following an open date, the Blue Raiders will hit the road as they travel to Birmingham to face UAB before returning home to take on FIU, Nov. 9. The Blue Raiders are 1-2 all-time against the Blazers with the last meeting coming in 2000.

After their second open date of the season, the Blue Raiders will head to Hattiesburg, MS, to take on Southern Miss. It will mark the first meeting between the two schools since the Blue Raiders defeated the Golden Eagles in the 2009 New Orleans Bowl.

UTEP will come to Murfreesboro on November 30 for the home and regular season finale. UTEP and MT will be playing each other for the first time.

"Obviously, this is a great schedule with a lot of tremendous opportunities," said Head Coach Rick Stockstill. "Our players and coaches are very excited about the challenges this schedule provides. We look forward to getting started."

Middle Tennessee fans can order season tickets today by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU (1-888-937-6878) or going on-line at GoBlueRaiders.com. For further questions about tickets, please call 615-898-5261.

2013 MIDDLE TENNESSEE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 WESTERN CAROLINA

Sept. 7 at North Carolina

Sept. 14 MEMPHIS

Sept. 21 at FAU

Sept. 27 at BYU

Oct. 5 EAST CAROLINA

Oct. 12 at North Texas

Oct. 19 MARSHALL

Oct. 26 bye

Nov. 2 at UAB

Nov. 9 FIU

Nov. 16 bye

Nov. 23 at Southern Miss

Nov. 30 UTEP

Dec. 7 Conference USA Championship Game (TBA)

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