

Rowe named to Top 30 list for Naismith Award

Junior becomes fourth Blue Raider to earn that distinction

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- **Naismith Award Top 30 list**

ATLANTA - Middle Tennessee's Ebony Rowe was named to the Naismith Women's Player of the Year Award Top 30 watch list released by the Atlanta Tipoff Club on Wednesday.

The junior forward is the only representative from the Sun Belt Conference and is on the list with players such as Baylor's Britney Griner and Notre Dame's Skyler Diggins.

Rowe ranks in the top 25 in four NCAA categories,

including 14th in double-doubles (15), 16th in points per game (20.2), 18th in field goal percentage (54.6) and 22nd in rebounds per game (10.7). She currently holds two school records with 47 double-doubles and 472 offensive rebounds. Rowe is second all-time in program history with 934 rebounds and is ninth with 1,615 points scored.

The Lexington, Ky., product is the fourth Blue Raider to garner Top 30 distinction. Chrissy Givens, Amber Holt and Alysha Clark have all earned a spot on the top 30 Naismith watchlist.

The top 30 candidates were selected by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors, which based its criteria on player performances during this year's college basketball season. In late March, the Naismith Trophy voting academy will narrow down the pack to four finalists. The Naismith Women's College Player of the Year presented by AT&T will be awarded to one female athlete on April 8, 2013, in New Orleans, La.

For the ninth consecutive year, fans will have the opportunity to text their votes for the player of their choice and help determine the 2013 Naismith Trophy winner. Voting will open to fans on Monday, March 25. Naismith Trophy presenting sponsor AT&T is making the voting open to other wireless carriers, enabling even more fans to participate.

"This season's inspiring class of candidates has made a real impact within a number of competitive



programs and conferences," said Jamie Kerr, Director, AT&T Corporate Sponsorships. "We can't wait until late March when the fans have their opportunity to help these athletes realize this prestigious honor and join an impressive group of past and future winners."

Notable Naismith Women's College Player of the Year winners include Chamique Holdsclaw, Lisa Leslie, Rebecca Lobo, and Tina Charles. The Naismith women's Trophy is the most prestigious national award presented annually to the women's college basketball player of the year.

Fans and media are encouraged to visit RaidersRowe.com to learn more about the Ebony Rowe for All-America campaign.

Also on Wednesday, the Blue Raiders clinched the 2012-13 Sun Belt Conference regular season title as WKU dropped a contest to South Alabama. The Raiders won their fifth consecutive regular season championship. MT plays at Troy in a 5:15 p.m. contest.

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