Knight named CollegeInsider.com MVP, Davis named SBC Coach of the Year

Davis earns third honor in last four years

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - CollegeInsider.com named senior guard Marcos Knight the Sun Belt's Most Valuable Player and head coach Kermit Davis the league's Coach of the Year on Wednesday. It marks the second year in a row and third time in the last four years Davis has received the honor.

Knight has been one of the top players in the Sun Belt throughout the season, leading the Blue Raiders to 16 straight victories, a 27-4 overall record and a 19-1 league mark. The Rentz, Ga., native leads MT with 12.6 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. He has scored double figures 26 times this season and 50 times in his two-year career as a Blue Raider. He ranks among the league's top 20 in five different categories, including scoring (16th), rebounding (17th), field goal percentage (14th), assists (15th) and defensive rebounding (11th). Knight has been MT's leading-scorer 20 times this season, scoring a career-high 23 points at Arkansas State, one of four performances where he posted at least 20 points. Knight has started all but two games over the past two seasons and it marks his first CollegeInsider.com award.

In his 11th season at the helm of the Blue Raiders, Davis' squad carried its success of last season into the 2012-13 campaign. MT has already tied its program record of 27 wins, set last season, and the 19 conference victories are not only a school record but also a Sun Belt record. The current 16-game winning streak is the longest in school history and ranks second nationally, while the eight-game road winning streak also ranks as a program-best. The Blue Raiders also rank fifth in the country with 54 wins over the past two seasons.

Davis became the Sun Belt's all-time winningest coach on Feb. 16 with his 113th league win and is MT's all-time winningest coach as well. Since Davis took the reins for the 2002-03 campaign he has led the Blue Raiders to more conference road victories than any other Sun Belt program and the

second-most road wins in college basketball over the past two seasons.

Davis' squad has been recognized nationally this season for its No. 25 RPI, receiving 51 votes in the current USA Today Coaches Poll, putting the Blue Raiders just eight votes outside the top 25.

The Blue Raiders look to make it 17 straight wins as they enter the Sun Belt tournament on Saturday. MT will take on the winner of the Louisiana-North Texas game on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Summit Arena in Hot Springs, Ark. The game will air on CSS locally.

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