

Raiders open fall season at UNLV Invitational

Four newcomers expected to play this weekend

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Middle Tennessee opens its' 2013-14 season this weekend with a visit to Las Vegas for the UNLV Women's Tennis Fall Invitational.

The three-day tournament begins on Friday, Sept. 20 and concludes Sunday, Sept. 22. Joining the Blue Raiders will be seven other teams from across the nation: Long Beach State, New Mexico State,



North Arizona, North Texas, South Alabama, Southern Illinois and host UNLV. The event consists of seven flights of singles and four flights of doubles action.

This season, the Blue Raiders added four student-athletes that should help an experienced squad that reached the Sun Belt Conference semifinals last season.

MT brings in Tennessee transfer Jesse Grace, who helped the Lady Vols reach the NCAA Tournament second round twice. Additionally, Auburn Montgomery transfer and All-American Tiffany William has a pair of NAIA National Titles on her resume.

A duo of international freshmen are also expected to make their collegiate debuts this weekend. Amanda Manns from Stockholm, Sweden, was a top-10 finalist for the 2013 Masters' Cup. Montreal native Sarah Sediri won a pair of doubles championships in Quebec.

Middle Tennessee returns three players that reached double-figures last season. Senior Flavia Nagayama headlines that group with a 15-8 record, while junior Nayara Moraes etched a record of 13-8. Sophomore Irina Constantinide notched 11 victories during her rookie campaign last season. Sophomore Alexandra Torres also returns this fall.

"We are looking forward to opening our fall season this weekend in Las Vegas," noted third year head coach Shelley Godwin. "This tournament provides each of our players to have the opportunity to play quality matches and opponents this early in the fall. It will pay dividends as we progress through the season."

Results of this weekend's action can be found online at GoBlueRaiders.com.

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