

# RAIDER REVIEW



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2015 ■ VOL. 1 NO. 1

## Middle's MAN OF Honors

MT hoops player  
Ed Simpson is a  
model of the  
modern-day  
student-athlete



### Austin Bryant

had several  
options for  
collegiate  
baseball

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# RAIDER REVIEW

Middle Tennessee State University  
Blue Raider Athletic Association  
Spring 2015 / Vol. 1, No. 1

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## ON THE COVER



**Ed Simpson** wanted a college that would challenge him both academically and on the court

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Cover photo by Brent Beerends  
Photo by Brent Beerends



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Chris Massaro

## From the Desk of the A.D.

**accomplishments of our student-athletes with our most special contingent of fans—BRAA donors. This is the first of many issues to come, and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.**

Our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators feel extremely fortunate to be the beneficiaries of your spirit, support, and commitment to the success of MT Athletics. As scholarship costs continue to rise, your support is critical to the success of our programs and to helping our student-athletes realize their dreams. I can promise you that our student-athletes understand the importance of the gifts you've given, and they are determined to represent you and the University with integrity and excellence in the classroom and beyond.

The 2014–2015 athletic year was a great one for the Blue Raiders. Our football team finished the season bowl-eligible for the sixth time since

2006; our men's basketball team had a great finish to the season (almost bringing home a C-USA championship); our women's basketball team had tremendous success in the postseason WNIT tournament; and, as of this writing, all our spring sports were having excellent seasons. Student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, as shown by the latest APR scores. For the fifth consecutive year, all 17 sports programs earned multiyear APRs higher than 930. Men's and women's golf had perfect scores of 1,000, and both programs received Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA for ranking in the top 10 percent nationally. We also had seven student-athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society.

**I am pleased to introduce the first issue of Raider Review magazine, the Blue Raider Athletic Association's quarterly publication, featuring stories on Middle Tennessee student-athletes, events, and updates on the Athletic Department and the BRAA. Our hope is that the Review will become a channel for sharing the incredible**

We appreciate you giving our new magazine a look. Let us know what you think about it. Your support of the BRAA is what allows us to continue the tradition of excellence for which Middle Tennessee athletics is known and which is reflected in the articles included here.

Thank you for believing in our student-athletes and giving them the opportunity to excel!

**Go Blue Raiders!**

**Chris Massaro**

**Director of Athletics**

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# Middle's MAN OF Honors

by Olivia Walter

MT hoops player **Ed Simpson** is a model of the modern day student-athlete

**W**hen deciding where to attend college, star athlete **Ed Simpson Jr.** wanted a place that would challenge him both academically and on the basketball court.

"Of course I wanted to go to a school where I could get a valuable education," Simpson said. "So education played a big role in my decision making."

His choices included Yale University, Boston University, and Middle Tennessee.

Simpson visited MTSU first. The group dynamic of the basketball team appealed to him immediately

"The family atmosphere makes you feel like you are really a part of something here, and you aren't just on a team. I know Coach [Kermit] Davis has helped people after they are done with school, and he gives the players he has coached great opportunities."

Photo by Brent Beerends



While on the visit, Simpson was able to get a close look at the University Honors College, often described as a select, private liberal arts school set within a major university. He liked what he saw.

"The Honors College is tremendous and has a great atmosphere," he said. "I liked the idea of being able to take some classes in the Honors College, but if I wanted to I could take all of my classes there."

"At Yale, you can't get a full scholarship, so they offered me a partial scholarship. My family said they would have loved for me to go to Yale, but it was a lot of money to be getting a similar education. My dad said, 'Why not go to Middle Tennessee, where everything is available to you right now?'"

Based on that fatherly advice, Simpson decided to become a Blue Raider.

### Hitting the hardwood... and the books

Simpson said he knew playing Division I basketball and taking Honors courses would be a balancing act. But he trusted he would get the support he would need to be successful from faculty and the athletic staff.

"I knew it would be a good challenge for me to come to Middle Tennessee," Simpson said. "I was going to take some difficult classes and if I needed or wanted to, I could get my whole education through the Honors program. They are very helpful with the students in the program in making sure you are getting the right education for you."

With a passion for science and math in high school, Simpson knew he wanted to further his education in one of those areas. Before enrolling in college, his father had introduced him to some friends in the mechanical engineering field to see if it would be something his son could see himself doing professionally one day.

"My dad is in the Air Force. He played basketball and made several good connections along the way," Simpson said. "He knew some people in the Air Force that had an engineering background. I went to the engineering building on a base and talked to some mechanical engineers just to get a better idea of if this was something I wanted to do. They all gave me really good advice and support."

In his first year at MTSU, Simpson rose to the challenge, posting a 4.00 GPA in the Honors program while majoring in Mechatronics Engineering.

"I'm feeling really good about my success in the Honors program so far," Simpson said. "You have your ups and downs but it's all about staying focused and being attentive."

Along with the hard work Simpson has been putting into his education, he's also found success on the court. He was named Conference USA Freshman of the Week December 15 after an impressive outing at Akron in which he matched a career-high with 10 points off the bench.

"The biggest difference in coming to college as a student-athlete is working on my time management," Simpson said. "You go to practice, lift weights, and watch film, and then head to study hall, where you'd better take advantage of that time to do your work. Time management is the biggest key in everything and making sure I'm getting everything done that needs to get done in that one day."

When things get tough, Simpson knows he not only has his family to lean on but also the support of his new Blue Raider family encouraging him to strive for what he wants.

"My 'big brother,' Zane [Gibson], has been my greatest mentor since arriving here," Simpson said of his teammate. "He has been able to help me stay focused on and off the court, or if I need something I know I can go to him."

### Looking Ahead

Simpson is positive that the hard work he puts into his studies and on the court is preparing him for a career and helping him build character. He said he also knows that getting a degree with honors from Middle Tennessee will be important in guiding him to a successful future.

"When people see that you are playing college basketball while succeeding in the classroom, they know that you must be disciplined," Simpson said. "And I think that will really help me later on in my career." **RR**

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**"My dad said, 'Why not go to Middle Tennessee, where everything is available to you right now?'"**

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# A BALLPLAYER WHO'S LIVING HIS DREAM

by Tony Stinnett

**Austin Bryant** had several options for collegiate baseball when he graduated from Columbia Central High School. But to him, there was really only one choice





**"From the get-go I always wanted to go to Middle Tennessee," said Bryant, son of Pam ('97) and John ('88) Bryant. "My parents went here. It's an hour from home. It's great baseball. When I came to visit, I fell in love with it. I love the coaches, the players, and the atmosphere. I just knew this was where I wanted to come to play college baseball." Bryant's high school coach, Mark Pickle, also played for the Blue Raiders.**

Middle Tennessee coaches liked Bryant, but they didn't have a scholarship available for him. Other schools did, but Bryant wasn't interested in those institutions. His mind was set on Middle Tennessee. He turned down scholarship offers to attend other universities and became a walk-on with the Blue Raiders. Bryant knew that staying with the team was a long shot, but he believed in his ability. "I wanted to prove I belonged," he said. "I think the best part for me was having to work hard and earn my spot. I love to work, I love the game, and I love to compete. I believe it was a good opportunity." Former Blue Raider coach Steve Peterson opened the door for Bryant, who walked on and played during Peterson's final year in 2012.

"I was blessed with an opportunity to get a chance to have a spot on the team," Bryant said. "Coach Pete allowed me to walk on and have an opportunity. He called me into his office after fall tryouts and told me I had a spot on the team. He said we would talk again in the spring to see where I was, and we would go from there."

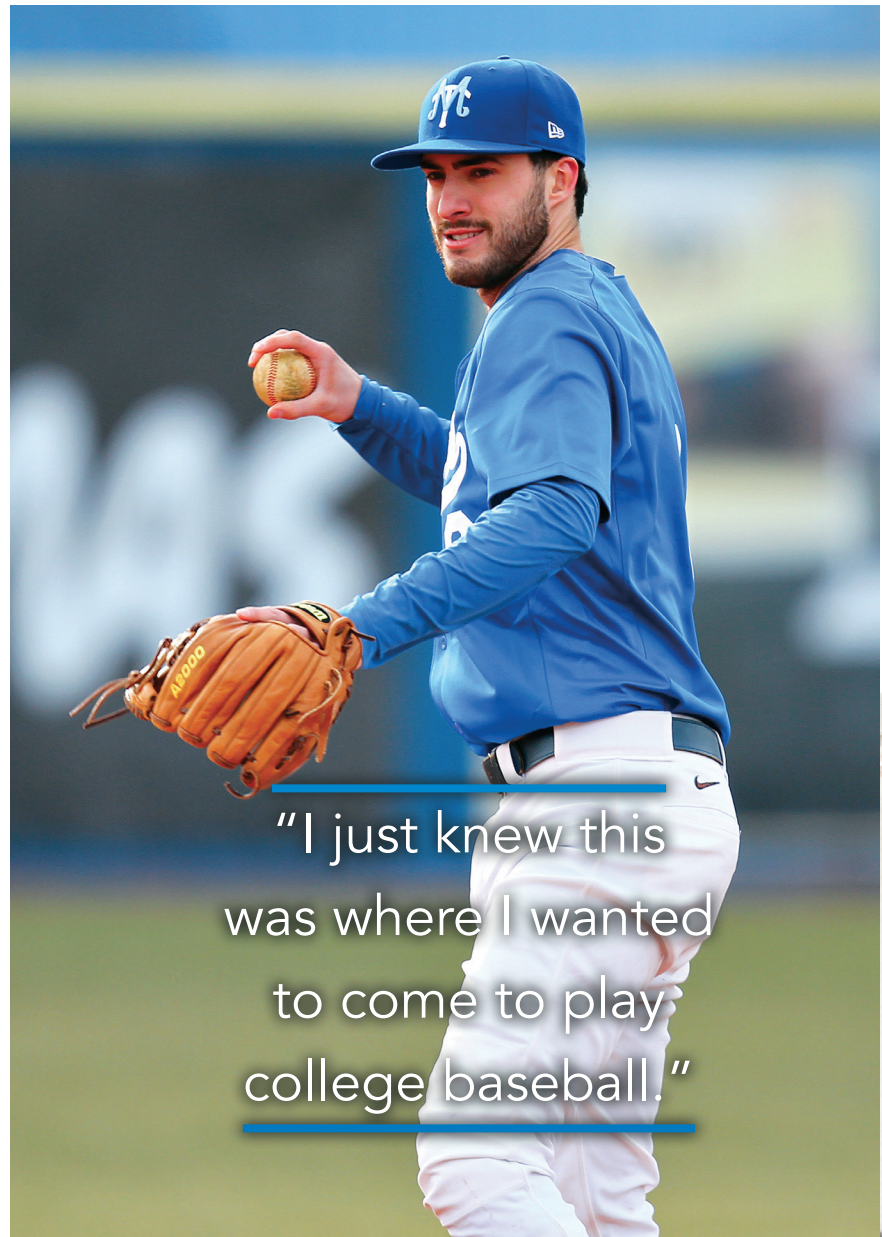
Bryant's work ethic and ability turned heads. It also earned him a scholarship. The new Blue Raider skipper, Jim McGuire, placed Bryant on scholarship status based on his work ethic, his ability, his play, and his overall development.

"Austin is a great kid and a very hard worker," McGuire said. "He has earned his way at Middle Tennessee. He wanted to be here, and he has made the absolute most of his opportunity."

He has been a good player and a great person in our program."

Bryant became a full-time starter and has been a staple in the middle of the Blue Raider infield. His prowess and competitiveness make him a complete player.

That he set out to prove something and took a chance in the process makes his success story even sweeter. **RR**



**"I just knew this was where I wanted to come to play college baseball."**



# From Raider to Stampeder

by Keith Ryan Cartwright

One former MT defensive back turned "Man of Calgary" pursues an unlikely career in professional football north of the border

**K**eon Raymond never dreamed he'd be playing professional football for nearly a decade after graduating from MTSU. In fact, before his junior year with the Blue Raiders, playing the game he loved at the professional level seemed a far-fetched dream.

Today, Raymond, 32, is preparing for his eighth professional season as a defensive back with the Calgary Stampeders in the Canadian Football League (CFL), where last year he contributed mightily to a team that won the league's championship, the Grey Cup.

## Seasons of Change

What spurred the change that opened the doors to a career in professional athletics? Raymond said it was during his junior and senior seasons at MTSU when he finally learned the importance of studying game film to give him a competitive edge. Logging hours in the film room helped him understand that a smart and well-prepared player can often actually outperform quicker, more athletic players.



"If you can be a student of the game, I think you can probably play as long as you would like," Raymond said. "I knew I could play football, and I was on scholarship and had an opportunity, but to really know how important school was and how it would prepare me for life—that translated to the field, too."

Raymond said his time as an upper-classman at MTSU was the "beginning" of his life.

"You're going to get out what you put in," he said. "That's in class and that's in football. You have to be able to put in the work."

More importantly for Raymond, who was married and a father while attending MTSU, college was also about truly becoming an adult and providing for his family. He realized that Blue Raider football gave him a platform to get a chance to play professionally, but that he would have to demonstrate personal responsibility, a strong work ethic, and determination.

## Due North

The St. Louis native said that playing in Canada has been fun and rewarding. Raymond likened the Canadian game-day atmosphere to college football in the U.S. But he said it took some adjusting when he first arrived north of the border.

For a start, offenses only have three downs to earn a first down, not four. The goalpost is at the front of the end zone, and the field is much bigger—65 yards wide and 110 yards long—and the end zones are 20 yards deep.

That's significant if you play defensive back. When opposing teams are on the three-yard line, for instance, Raymond has to be prepared to defend a 20-yard fade route.

"That's pretty tough," said Raymond. "But it's not bad. You just have to be able to run up here."

His path to Canada was somewhat winding. After his career ended at MTSU, he joined the Tennessee Titans as an unsigned free agent in 2006. He played one season in the Arena Football League as a member of the Nashville Kats and a second season with the New Orleans Voodoo. In 2008, he signed a player contract with the Calgary Stampeders of the CFL, and the team won the Grey Cup that year.

"I thought it was easy . . . and we would do it every year," Raymond said. The team has since been to the conference finals five times but only won that game twice. The Stampeders won the Grey Cup again in 2014.

## Thoughts of Home

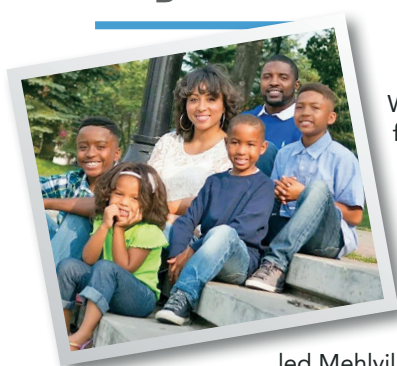
Looking back, Raymond said he couldn't have imagined when he was growing up that he would be a professional football player. "Especially playing this long," he added. "It's a dream come true."

While he never played for Coach Rick Stockstill, Raymond said the two talk on occasion. He also said that after he retires from pro football he and his family do not plan to return to his hometown in Missouri, where he

led Mehlville High School to a state championship as a junior. Instead they intend to settle in Murfreesboro. And he has a new goal in mind.

"It's a huge family and I'm glad I chose Middle Tennessee," he said. He wants to coach football or work as a mentor with college athletes after he retires. "Honestly, that would be like a dream job—to coach for my alma mater." **RR**

## Raymond referred to his time as an upperclassman at MTSU as "the beginning of [my] life."



# By the Numbers

During the 2014 CFL season, Raymond started 16 games for the Calgary Stampeders and had 46 tackles, a special-teams tackle, four tackles for a loss of four yards, four knockdowns, a forced fumble, a blocked kick, and five interceptions for 203 return yards, including one returned for a 63-yard touchdown. On October 3, he moved into fourth place in Stampeders history with 553 career interception return yards. He also returned kickoffs for 117 yards. Raymond was named the CFL's defensive player of the week after recording seven tackles, including one tackle for loss; a forced fumble; and a 43-yard interception in the final regular season game. He started in the Western Final and had three tackles, three special-teams tackles, and a fumble recovery. He also started in the Grey Cup game and had four tackles and a special-teams tackle.

Off the field, Raymond represents the Stampeders locally and is involved in the Every Yard Counts and Timbits programs.

**True Blue!**





# A *true* TEAM SPORT

**Todd Wyant** and his staff in the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center work hard to ensure every Blue Raider excels in the classroom as well

by Keith Ryan Cartwright

**A**s exciting as it is to see MT athletes and teams succeed on the fields and on the courts, it is graduation day that brings the most pride for Todd Wyant and his staff. Every time they watch a new class of Blue Raider athletes walk across the graduation stage at Murphy Center to collect their hard-earned college degrees, they feel a collective sense of pride for the achievement at hand.

That's because Wyant, director of the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center since 2009, and his staff, which includes Wynnifred Counts, Cassie Watson, Debbie Carroll, and Wes Hofacker, work tirelessly every day to ensure the academic success of each student-athlete that comes through a Blue Raiders athletic program. It's a daily grind that is perfectly aligned with the University's overall "Quest for Student Success," the presidential initiative aimed at improving student retention and graduation rates campus-wide.

"I'm fortunate to have the staff and the support that I do," said Wyant, a Scottsdale, Arizona, native, who adds that he greatly enjoys working in concert with the coaching staffs for each of the 17 athletic programs at MTSU to achieve academic results.

## It Takes a Village

Counts and Carroll, each of whom graduated from MTSU, are the senior members of the staff, and provide Wyant with a local and historical perspective that he wouldn't otherwise possess. Hofacker, a former Blue Raider football player, helps the Wyant team better relate to the pressures of being a student-athlete. Watson provides essential support and know-how that helps the group fire on all cylinders.

This all-star staff deserves much of the credit for the overall academic standing of student-athletes at MTSU. Their work with the football team, which has been bowl eligible six times in the past nine years, serves as a perfect illustration of how their commitment—and the University's commitment—to tutoring, mentoring, and improving academic outcomes among student-athletes at MTSU has led to historic (and nationally-recognized) gains in classroom performance.

"That's where it started," said Wyant, emphasizing that the Academic

Progress Rate or APR for football was 902 in 2006–07 and improved to 972 in 2012–13—a 70-point swing in six years. (APR represents a retention and eligibility average over a four-year period.) "That shows you the commitment."

Wyant credited the leadership of MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro, Dr. Terry Whiteside, the university's current NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, and Dr. Deb Sells, MTSU vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services, for the "recommitment" to student-athlete academic performance, as Wyant called it. According to Wyant, that recommitment began with increased funding during the 2007–08 academic school year. The transformation also had to do with reevaluating how the University structured study tables and mentoring sessions, Wyant said, as well as the involvement of coaching staffs monitoring academic reports throughout the year, and, perhaps most importantly, a commitment from student-athletes themselves to do better.

MTSU faculty also deserves heaps of praise for working with the student-athletes when they travel, providing mid-term reports and other necessary feedback to the staff, Wyant stressed.





"Once you get to a level like 972, it's important that you stay there," said Wyant, who also commended men's and women's basketball for having an APR of 1,000 last year.

The pursuit of even greater scores is ongoing. Wyant said MT athletic teams are in hot pursuit of the academic numbers being posted by student-athletes at Rice University—a highly-regarded academic school—which is a peer athletic member of Conference USA.

"We're competing with Rice in our conference to be the highest," Wyant summed up. "The total commitment from Dr. McPhee all the way down to the individual student-athletes is really what changed the culture here at MTSU."

## Getting Real

For some student-athletes, especially those designated at-risk academically, the support provided to ensure they grow and mature and become partners with Wyant and staff in improving academic performance is tangible in the hallways of the athletic department. Crucial to it all is the student-athlete's realization—which most discover—of just how important achieving a college degree ultimately can be to making them successful in life after their playing days are over.

"We get excited when they walk across the stage during commencement," Wyant said, "or their parents will come in here and we'll talk to them or we look back four years ago and they may not have bought into the system, at that time, and now they're off to graduate school."

One former Blue Raider who stands out for Wyant in this regard is recent graduate and star football player, Jimmie Staten. Staten, who "had a lot going on in his life," Wyant explained, managed to finish his degree and was at his graduation ceremony when he was selected by the then-reigning Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks in the 2014 National Football League draft.

"That was kind of special," Wyant recalled. "He worked very hard to get his degree, he worked extremely hard on the football field and then for it all to happen kind of simultaneously—to get drafted during your graduation

## 2012–13 APR SCORES

The following represent a multi-year rate that averages scores from the 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13 campaigns.

Baseball: 970	Women's Basketball: 982
Football: 972	Women's Cross Country: 939
Men's Basketball: 981	Women's Golf: 1000
Men's Cross Country: 989	Women's Soccer: 989
Men's Golf: 1000	Women's Tennis: 983
Men's Tennis: 983	Women's Indoor Track: 976
Men's Indoor Track: 976	Women's Outdoor Track: 974
Men's Outdoor Track: 972	Women's Volleyball: 984
Softball: 968	

**This marks the fifth consecutive year that all 17 MT athletic programs achieved an APR above 930.**

ceremony—I think, was just an unbelievable experience.

"To see him hug Dr. McPhee on the stage, a lot of people are going to remember that moment for quite some time. ... It proves that as a student-athlete, you can do both."

2008. This marks the second straight year that Middle Tennessee has scored above 80 percent. This year's GSR mark broke the previous record of 82 percent set last year.

The Blue Raiders also ranked third out of the 14 teams in Conference USA,

## Improving academic outcomes among student-athletes has led to historic classroom performance

### Graduation Success Rate

Middle Tennessee's NCAA Graduation Success Rate announced on Nov. 5, 2014, set a new school record at 87 percent and is five points higher than the NCAA average.

The Graduation Success Rate (GSR) is a four-year measure of freshmen and athletic transfers who entered Middle Tennessee between the fall semester of 2004 and the spring semester of

trailing only Charlotte and Rice, who both scored 92 percent. However, Charlotte did not have football during this time, so among football playing members, the Blue Raiders would rank second. Of the four FBS programs in the state of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee ranked second behind only Vanderbilt's 90 percent. Memphis turned in an 84 percent score while Tennessee was at 78 percent. **RR**

**Todd Wyant, who is completing his sixth year as director of the Academic Enhancement Center, chats with linebacker T. T. Barber.**

Photos by Brent Beerends



VIEW  
FROM  
THE

# PRESSBOX



Chip Walters

## THESE MAY BE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Nothing gets a conversation moving quicker among Blue Raider fans than the phrases, “Back in my day” or “Who was the best this or the fastest that?”

Fortunately, those who have followed Blue Raider Athletics for any length of time at all, have some pretty strong arguments for different eras in the university's athletic history. Was it the Raider 40s with so many dazzling athletes coming back from World War II to star on the gridiron? Maybe it was the 1960s when the Bubber Murphy-coached Blue Raiders dominated the Ohio Valley Conference in football. Could it have been the 1970s when Jimmy Earle's Blue Raider Basketball teams opened the spectacular Murphy Center and established Middle as a basketball power as well? Surely it was my time...the 80s and 90s...when the Blue Raiders were regular competitors in NCAA competition in football, basketball, and baseball?

The great part about this debate is that Middle Tennessee has a rich athletic history and there is no easy or clear-cut answer. Compelling arguments can be made for all. It's also possible that we might embellish some of those events from the past to make them a little bigger or a little better than they actually were. Surely not!



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# The Voice of the Blue Raiders

When you think about the Good Old Days or a Golden Era of Blue Raider Athletics, it's easy to make a case that the last fifteen years have been, across the board, the best in school history. Middle Tennessee was the dominant athletic program during its time in the Sun Belt Conference and that success has continued with the move to Conference USA.

**It's easy to make a case that the last 15 years have been, across the board, the best in school history.**

Think about what has been accomplished. It would have been very easy to have remained at the Division I-AA level in football and continued to be a top program at that level. Yet, the move to Division I-A was undoubtedly the right choice. Being bowl-eligible on average of every other year during that period is testament to that. The bowl trips to Detroit, New Orleans, Mobile, and Fort Worth have been pretty fun as well.

Turn to basketball. The men's team has just completed the most successful four year run in school history with 98 wins and a handful of postseason invitations. The women's program has more consecutive postseason appearances than I have fingers. Baseball is on a definite uptick. Softball is off to its best start in years. The golf and tennis teams are rock solid, as are volleyball and soccer. And then Dean Hayes continues to do what he's done at Middle for a half-century on the track...win.

Factor all of that competitive success against some of the best competition in the country with the incredible results these student-athletes post in the classroom and I can come up with only one conclusion. We are right in the middle of the best overall stretch of athletics in the 100-plus years of the university.

**These ARE the Good Old Days! RR**

## COMPLIANCE



Daryl Simpson  
Assistant A.D. for  
Compliance

## EMPLOYMENT FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Summer is fast approaching; prime time for current and prospective student-athletes to seek and find employment. Naturally, many BRAA members really want to help student-athletes and MTSU by helping them find employment or by hiring them directly.

Employment for enrolled student-athletes may not be arranged by BRAA members unless they first receive approval from the Office of Athletic Compliance, but employment for prospective student-athletes may be arranged by BRAA members during the summer before freshman enrollment.

NCAA rules require that the student-athlete and the employer sign a written statement BEFORE the beginning of employment confirming that the employment satisfies NCAA rules. Below are specific NCAA rules that each student-athlete, prospective student-athlete and employer must follow:

- Employers must receive prior approval before hiring any student-athletes.
- The student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed at a rate commensurate with the going rate in our locality for similar services.
- The student-athlete has not been hired based on his or her athletic ability.
- The student-athlete's name, picture, or likeness cannot be used to advertise, recommend, or promote sales or use of a commercial product or service of any kind.
- Transportation to work for student-athletes is not provided unless transportation is provided for all other employees.
- The student-athlete cannot receive compensation related to him/her speaking/lecturing at an institutional athletics booster club function.

Also, it is permissible for a student-athlete or prospective student-athlete to be employed at an institution's summer camp in which the employment will be monitored internally. The public perception is that student-athletes can't work, but that is not true. The Compliance Office encourages student-athletes to work in order to make extra money and get valuable job experience; however, the rules above could easily be broken without proper monitoring. If you are thinking of employing a student-athlete or are currently employing a student-athlete, please contact the Compliance Office. It's always better to ask before you act.

For answers to any questions regarding these matters, contact Daryl Simpson at [daryl.simpson@mtsu.edu](mailto:daryl.simpson@mtsu.edu). **RR**





## Blue Raider Athletic Association



Keith McCluney  
Associate Athletic  
Director/Development

# DONORS MAKE THE



# DIFFERENCE

**M**iddle Tennessee offers 17 varsity sports and provides opportunities for over 300 extremely talented young men and women who represent our University with class and dignity each time they wear the Blue and White. We are proud to provide a way for student-athletes to get an their education while competing at the Division I level as members of Conference USA. Middle Tennessee boasts consistently high student-athlete graduation rates and consistently competitive teams.

In the ever-changing world of intercollegiate athletics, the support you provide as members of the Blue Raider Athletic Association continues to be the lifeblood of MT Athletics. Your generosity makes it possible for us to provide first-class educational and athletic experiences for our student-athletes. We know that without your investment in the lives of these young people, many of them would not have the opportunity to realize their dreams and

create a better future for themselves and their families.

We don't take that responsibility lightly and we hope you know that by supporting the Blue Raider Athletic Association you are making dreams happen. We can't say thank you enough for the time and the resources that you continue to invest to help make us better. That all-in spirit is what makes Middle Tennessee a special place.

**We hope you know  
that by supporting  
the Blue Raider  
Athletic Association  
you are making  
dreams happen.**

We have the opportunity to lift our athletic programs to the next level, but it will take a team effort!

Middle Tennessee has many hard-working people who take pride in being leaders

and being the best at everything they do. We have an opportunity to advance our reputation, widen our impact, and move our athletic programs to a sustained level of excellence across the board.

The blueprint is in place and the vision is clear. We want championship programs and we need Middle Tennessee, Rutherford County, and Murfreesboro to come alive and support the Blue Raiders! Murfreesboro is our city and the Blue Raiders are our team. Please support our student-athletes by purchasing tickets and coming to the games, and support them in the classroom by joining the Blue Raider Athletic Association. Those two elements, combined with our outstanding coaches, can lead us to success!

This year marks the beginning of a new era for the BRAA, as we look to build upon the foundation that has already been laid. Our goal is to continue to build upon that past success, and to get to where we need to go, we need the help and support of generous donors like you.

We must continue to increase our annual fund to keep up with the changes in intercollegiate athletics and to continue providing opportunities for our student-athletes. The Blue Raider Athletic Association is all in and up for the challenge

... **ARE YOU? RR**

## DEEPER COMMITMENT AND WIDER IMPACT





MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY.

## BLUE RAIDER ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GREATER NASHVILLE GOLF SCRAMBLE MONDAY, JUNE 29

The 12th annual Greater Nashville Blue Raider Golf Scramble is scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2015. The event, which is sponsored by the Blue Raider Athletic Association, is an annual fundraiser for Blue Raider student-athlete scholarships. Join the Blue Raider Athletic Association in a fun-filled day of golf at The Hermitage Golf Course to benefit the Blue Raider Athletic Association.

### **SPONSORSHIP:**

**PRESENTING SPONSOR:** includes three foursomes in the scramble, logo placement on all banners and printed materials, onsite marketing material activation, use of assigned course tee box for company, tee/green signage, and publicity as the PRESENTING sponsor and the Awards sponsor: **\$5,000**

**CHAMPION SPONSOR:** includes two foursomes in the scramble, logo placement on all banners and printed materials, onsite marketing material activation, use of assigned course tee box for company, tee/green signage, and publicity as a Champion sponsor: **\$3,000**

**SILVER SPONSOR:** includes a foursome in the scramble, logo placement on all banners and printed materials, use of assigned course tee box for company, and tee/green signage: **\$1,500**.

**BLUE SPONSOR:** includes use of assigned course tee box for company, signs on the green/tee, participant gift and lunch: **\$1,000**.

**HOLE SPONSOR:** includes signage for your company on tee or green: **\$150**

### **List of Events:**

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Shotgun start: 8:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.

Format: Scramble

### **INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FEE: \$160**

Includes cart and green fees, range balls, lunch, complimentary course beverages and \$25 Nike gift card

### **TEAM ENTRY FEE: \$640**

Includes 2 carts, cart and green fees, range balls, lunch, complimentary course beverages and \$25 Nike gift card to each team member

### **MULLIGANS:**

Each person has the opportunity to purchase a maximum of two mulligans for \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the tournament

#### **Player # 1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 for 2)

#### **Player # 2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 for 2)

#### **Player # 3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 for 2)

#### **Player # 4**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 for 2)

☐ **Individual entry fee (\$160)**

☐ **Team entry fee (\$640)**

☐ **Presenting Sponsor (\$5,000)**

☐ **Champion Sponsor (\$3,000)**

☐ **Silver Sponsor (\$1,500)**

☐ **Blue Sponsor (\$1,000)**

☐ **Hole Sponsor (\$150)**

**Please return this form along with entry fees to MTSU BRAA, PO BOX 576, Murfreesboro, TN. (37132)**

**Make checks payable to MTSU BRAA**

If paying by card: Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. code \_\_\_\_\_





## Blue Raider Athletic Association

# NEW BENEFITS CHART AND MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR

Beginning in 2015, the Blue Raider Athletic Association will implement an enhanced benefits chart and membership calendar for all BRAA donors

The Blue Raider Athletic Association has an enhanced benefits chart and membership calendar for all donors (see below). The new chart has several changes such as the minimum giving level moving from \$125 to \$150, several

giving level name changes, and a brand-new giving level (Legacy Circle) at \$7,500.

Also, some benefits have been modified this year: parking passes for football and basketball

Benefit	Lightning \$150	True Blue \$250	Blue and White \$500	Loyal Raider \$750	Blue Raider \$1,250	Silver Raider \$2,500	AD Circle \$5,000	Legacy Circle \$7,500	Blue Champion \$10,000
Tax Deduction (Please consult your tax advisor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Donor Packet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discount on all Lightning's Locker Room Purchases	10%	10%	10%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Football Game Program Recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baseball Chairback Seat Priority (Rows 6+)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Postseason Ticket Priority	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to BRAA Donor Appreciation Dinner	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4
Football Parking Pass (Must purchase season tickets)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball Parking Pass (Must purchase season tickets)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Football Chairback Seat Priority (2 seats)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to Raider Review Magazine		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Basketball Donor Appreciation Events			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baseball Chairback Seat Priority (Rows 1-4)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball Seat Priority - 2 seats (Rows 5-10 above the rail)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue and White Pre-Game Tailgate Meal (Football)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball Seat Priority - 2 seats (Rows 1-4 below the rail)					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to Silver Raider Room Halftime Reception (Basketball)						✓	✓	✓	✓
Name listed on BRAA Donor Wall in Murphy Center						✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Hendrix Stadium Club Priority (Number of seats)						2	4	6	8
Priority Football Parking (Midgett Lot and Reese Smith Lot)							✓	✓	✓
Complimentary Football and Basketball Media Guides								✓	✓
Valet Parking Service for Basketball									✓
Annual Recognition Award									✓
Reserved Personalized Parking Space for Football									✓
Eligible to Purchase Two Courtside Floor Seats for Basketball									✓
Opportunity to Travel with the Team (Football Only)									✓



are available to any donor with season tickets for those sports, all donors at the \$150 level and higher are invited to the annual BRAA Donor Appreciation Dinner, and all donors will be sent a thank-you packet during the summer.

The Blue Raider Athletic Association membership calendar has also changed. All member donations are now due by June 30 every year. This means that to receive your football and basketball benefits, you must make your annual BRAA donation by June 30. This change is necessary because the BRAA has switched to a fiscal-year giving cycle that matches the University's calendar.

## Membership Calendar

Event	Date
BRAA Membership Guide and Renewals Sent	March 2015
Football Season Ticket Renewal Deadline	June 8, 2015
Greater Nashville Golf Tournament	June 29, 2015
BRAA Donation Deadline for 2015-16 Benefits (Including season tickets, rank, and parking for football and men's basketball)	June 30, 2015
BRAA Football Parking Passes Mailed	July 2015
BRAA Appreciation Dinner	August 2015
Chuck Taylor Golf Tournament	September 21, 2015
Men's Basketball Season Ticket Renewal Deadline	October 2015
BRAA Basketball Parking Passes Mailed	October 2015
Last day to make a donation and receive tax credit for 2015	December 31, 2015



# SEND US YOUR BLUE RAIDER PHOTOS!

Blue Raider Athletic Association members! Send us your photos for publication in Raider Review. Send them in high resolution digital form to [justin.morrison@mtsu.edu](mailto:justin.morrison@mtsu.edu). (Submission of a photo does not guarantee that it will be published.)

Thanks for showing off your Blue Raider pride!



Photos by Brent Beerends



# Donor SPOTLIGHT

## Larry and Martha Tolbert

- MTSU Alumni
- Years Graduated: 1973
- Consecutive Years Giving to the BRAA: 27
- Currently Reside: Murfreesboro, Tenn.



**Q:** What caused you to become a fan of MTSU?

**A:** Larry grew up in Murfreesboro, across the street from MTSU. He's been riding his bike around campus for the last 50+ years. He can't remember a time he wasn't a fan of MTSU! Martha's a fan because, well, she couldn't spend this much time with Larry and not be a fan.

**Q:** When did you attend your first Blue Raider game?

**A:** Larry can't really remember his first game. He was a small child at the time. Martha's first game was a football game against FAU in Boca Raton in 2007. She went with Larry on the team charter with a big group from the BRAA. It was one of their first dates and it made quite an impression.

**Q:** My favorite MTSU sports are...

**A:** Because Larry does the public address for football and men's basketball, those two would have to be the favorites. But Martha enjoys baseball, because she actually gets to sit with Larry during the games. Thanks to Twitter, it's easy to follow what's happening with all MT sports!

**Q:** What is your best memory of MTSU athletics?

**A:** For Larry, it would be the basketball win against Kentucky in 1982. For Martha, it would be the New Orleans Bowl in 2009.

**Q:** What is the farthest distance you have traveled to see the Blue Raiders play?

**A:** The most fun road trip we had was in 2012 when we flew down to Mobile for the South Alabama football game and then rented a car and drove over to Florida for the Florida and Central Florida basketball games in Tampa and Orlando, then flew home with the basketball team. Of course, we got some cycling in while in Tampa.

**Q:** My favorite place to eat is:

**A:** When the weather is nice, it would have to be our screened-in porch, looking out over the river. If Larry is taking Martha out for dinner, it would be Maple Street Grill.

**Q:** My favorite hobby is:

**A:** Cycling, and as the GEICO commercials say, "Everybody knows that!"

**Q:** My favorite TV Show is:

**A:** We don't watch a lot of TV, but we record Sports Center every morning and watch it while we have breakfast.

**Q:** My most interesting vacation is:

**A:** "The Big Ride", which was a 2013 bicycle journey across the United States, from Washington, D.C., to Washington state.



Cycling is our passion,  
the BRAA our commitment



# HAZARDS

## OF Life

Mandatory military service prematurely ends South Korean golfer Andrew Cho's MT career

by Keith Ryan Cartwright

**Ask men's golf coach Whit Turnbow about Andrew Cho and he begins with, "It's quite a story."**

Cho thought—or hoped, at least—he would be completing his final semester of eligibility as a collegiate golfer in Murfreesboro. Instead, he's in South Korea, where he recently began a mandatory two-year stint in his home country's military.

"It sucks," he said, when asked about having to forgo the last five months of his amateur career to return home. "It was an honor to play for Middle Tennessee. They make me feel like I'm part of the family. It's been a huge deal for me."

### Scrambling for Par

Turnbow discovered Cho at the 2009 U.S. Amateur at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. The two struck up a friendship, and Cho decided right then that he wanted to be a Blue Raider.

At the time, Cho was attending a private academy in Florida—one he had trusted to be mindful of academic requirements he needed to meet to be eligible to play Division I golf. Unfortunately, his trust was misplaced. Cho found himself several core courses short of eligibility standards without enough time to make them all up. He faced the daunting task of paying his own way for his freshman year at MTSU. More heartbreaking, he couldn't practice or participate in any official MT Golf team activities until he was deemed eligible by the NCAA.

In most cases like this, a potential student-athlete simply turns pro. However, as Turnbow says, Cho isn't like most students. "He stuck it out and did it. So it was just remarkable that he had that much faith in us way back then

to hang in there. At the end of the day, he's what we're here for. He got a chance to get an education."

### Landing in the Rough

Cho's national service requirement was always in the back of his mind and Turnbow's, too. In summer 2014, Turnbow had written a letter to the Sports Commander of the South Korean Army requesting an extension that would allow Cho to focus on school and golf for at least a while longer. Even after the fall semester started, Turnbow said he thought it might be six to eight weeks before they knew whether the extension would be granted.

In October 2014, Cho was playing well in a new MT-hosted tournament called the Intercollegiate at the Grove. Cho finished his three rounds in 229 strokes. The MT squad finished with a 291 on the last day—the second-best team score on the par 72 course—and had rallied to a fourth-place finish among 12 teams that included Ohio State University, the winner.

Cho's parents had called him on a Monday evening, the night before the final round of the Intercollegiate. The news wasn't what either Cho or his coach wanted to hear.

"I'm sure it's emotional," said Turnbow. "You don't know what the future holds. He played in a lot of golf tournaments while he was here and fought off a lot of obstacles, including a language barrier, to come here from South Korea, get an education, and be part of this program and get it to where it is. Yeah, there's some emotion involved."

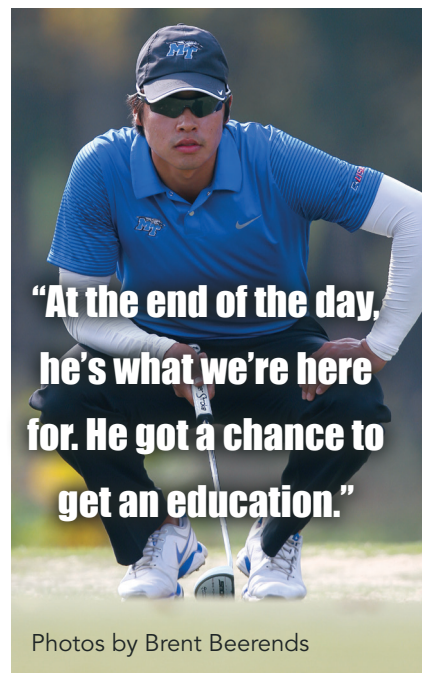
In an interview with MT Athletics just after he got the news that he had to leave, Cho shook off the notion that it was an emotional experience. "I have to go back," he said simply. "Because I want to play after college also. It's a learning process."

Cho's visa expired mainly because of the year he had to sit out due to eligibility concerns. The good news is that he graduated from MTSU last December.

His return home meant he missed playing in one last conference tournament and wasn't able to try to qualify for the NCAA tournament. But that doesn't mean he's quitting competitive golf.

"I still want to play golf as my career," he said. He's hoping to turn pro in 2017.

Coach Turnbow usually ends his Andrew Cho story very simply: "He's a super kid." **RR**



Photos by Brent Beerends





# CATCHING UP WITH DIONNE ROSE-HENLEY

By Jared Hastings

**I**n the storied history of Middle Tennessee track and field, few athletes stand out like Dionne (Rose) Henley. During her Blue Raider career, Henley became the first MT female athlete to win All-American honors (a feat she accomplished four times), win a national title (1994 indoor 55m hurdles), and set six school records, five of which still stand. A two-time Olympian for her native Jamaica, Henley placed fifth in the 100m hurdles at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

TRACK AND FIELD

**Q**

What are you doing now?

**A**

I am still coaching at Central Michigan University, where I have been an assistant track and field coach since 2009. In fact, I am coaching the men's and women's short hurdles along with the women's short sprints. Also, with the new head coach [U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Famer Mark Guthrie] things are even better.

**Q**

What was your time at Middle Tennessee like?

**A**

I had a great experience. The team we had was more like a family. Coach Hayes was our coach as well as our dad.

**Q**

What was it like competing for Coach Hayes?

**A**

Coach Hayes's teaching technique is what helped me become the great coach I am today. I am proud to say he is the best coach I know, and I would love to be as great as him one day.



**Q**

What was the highlight of your Middle Tennessee career?

**A**

I have to say that the highlight of my MTSU career was being inducted in the Blue Raider Hall of Fame. That was a special time for me.

**Q**

What does being a Blue Raider mean to you?

**A**

Being a Blue Raider is being the best you can be in everything; on the track as well as in the classroom. **RR**





## CATCHING UP WITH JEAN PREVOST

By Jared Hastings

**J**ean Prevost has a knack for being a pioneer in his field, and his time at Middle Tennessee was no exception. Playing for Blue Raider legend Buck Bouldin, Prevost put together a masterful career on the tennis court from 1965 to 1968. A native of Canada, Prevost was a four-year captain for the Blue Raider squad, and in 1968 became the first Middle Tennessee player to garner All-Conference honors when he was named All-Ohio Valley Conference. After leaving Middle Tennessee, Prevost—who now splits his time between Boca Raton, Florida, and Montreal, Canada—became a giant in the playing field industry, acquiring and building Field Turf into the global standard for playing surfaces today.

Q

What are you doing now?

A

"I retired from Field Turf in 2008, and now I have a company called Phoenix Innovation Technologies. The new company is doing some really innovative things with newer technology and taking rubber from tires and regenerate it to be put into more rubber products. We patented the technology, and the plant is in Montreal. It's very green, no pollution and it's really exciting. Every car and every truck has four tires and we can now take those and convert them into something even more useful."

Q

How did you become associated with Field Turf?

A

"I started with Field Turf in the early '80s. I was in a tennis court-surfacing business and someone brought to me what was a sand-filled tennis court and I sold those courts all over the place. I think the product was called Mod Sod. A professional golfer by

the name of Freddy Haas was the inventor of that system. Freddy was a tinkerer and a professional golfer, but he also created a product with rubber granules and sand. From that product, which was a mom and pop product, we developed into a much more professional product with different fibers; grass to be able to take enough infill so that it would be resilient. We discovered a whole bunch of things about that along the way and it took off."

Q

What was it like playing for Buck Bouldin?

A

"Coach was the greatest guy. He was patient. We were kind of wet behind the ears. It was a much smaller school then, there were only 4,400 students there at the time. But he was just a good leader, savvy, and guiding and so on. He was very well respected."

Q

What is it like looking back on Middle Tennessee then as compared to now and knowing you had a hand in laying that foundation?

A

"It's a good feeling. The growth has been phenomenal. Besides that, the opportunity for kids to be able to go and play at a school like Middle Tennessee—opportunities like that are rare. If you don't have to pay the whole fees for education and you leave there with a degree, it's pretty special. My granddaughter is going to be going to college next year and I've been looking at the cost [of college] and it's huge." **RR**

I AM *true*  
**BLUE**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY





MIDDLE TENNESSEE™  
**#TRUE**  
DEDICATION. HEART. GRIT.

## Raiders Win Three-OT Thriller vs. WKU

On Sept. 13, 2014, the Blue Raiders won against Western Kentucky University in a three-overtime game. Final score was MT 50, WKU 47.





## The Student-Athlete Experience

"I am very appreciative of the Blue Raider Athletic Association's efforts to raise money for scholarships. It helps give athletes who have put a lot of blood and sweat into their athletics a chance to earn something of meaning – a scholarship to a great program such as Middle Tennessee. The Blue Raider Athletic Association's efforts go a long way for us student-athletes, and we are very appreciative for that."

*Shane Tucker*  
Junior | Football

"I am very appreciative of what the Blue Raider Athletic Association has done for student-athletes like me to give me an opportunity to attend a great institution like Middle Tennessee. Without these scholarships, many athletes at MT couldn't live out their dreams!"

*Austin Grammer*  
Redshirt Junior | Football





# Raider Roundup



Diane Turnham

## Turnham Named to NCAA Committee

Associate Athletic Director **Diane Turnham** continues to add to an already impressive résumé. She was appointed in February to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Selection Committee. Turnham will begin her five-year term Sept. 1, 2015.

"It is an extremely high honor to serve on the women's basketball committee, and I can't wait to get started," said Turnham. "This group is responsible for managing one of the elite sporting events in the country, so I plan on working very hard, being thorough, and doing my part to contribute to the committee's successful future. I feel like my past committee work has prepared me well, and basketball has always been a huge part of my life."

Turnham, in her 33rd year at Middle Tennessee, is no stranger to committee work. The former head volleyball coach and assistant women's basketball coach served on the Division I Women's Soccer Committee from 2004 to 2008 and was the committee chair in 2008. She just completed her second year as chair of the Division I Women's Volleyball Committee.

## Hayes Completes 50th Season

The legendary **Coach Dean A. Hayes** recently completed his 50th season as head track and field coach. During his tenure, the Blue Raiders have won 49 conference championships, had 19 top-25 finishes, produced 90 All-Americans, had four national champions, and brought home 30 conference Coach of the Year honors. Congratulations, Coach Hayes!

## 250 Club

Middle Tennessee head basketball coaches **Kermit Davis** (men) and **Rick Insell** (women) both won their 250th games as Blue Raider coaches during the 2014–15 season. Davis won number 250 when the Blue Raiders defeated Old Dominion in the second round of the Conference USA Tournament. Insell joined the 250 club with the Blue Raiders WNIT victory over Ball State.

On April 17, baseball head coach Jim McGuire notched milestone win no. 300 when the Blue Raiders came from behind to beat Charlotte in extra innings.

## Statues of Stanford, Smith Unveiled

On March 24 before Middle Tennessee's baseball game against defending national champion Vanderbilt, the Athletic Department unveiled full-sized statues of **John Stanford** and **Reese Smith**.

Stanford, the former baseball coach and athletic director, and Blue Raider supporter Reese Smith are foundational figures in Middle Tennessee baseball.

"These are the first two statues on our campus, which is very significant," said Chris Massaro, director of athletics. "Coach Stanford and Reese Smith really helped build our program together and allowed us to be



Stanford and Smith Statues



## 2015 RAIDERS CHOICE AWARDS WINNERS

April 30, 2015, Tucker Theater

Presidents Award (Male): Leighton Gasque, Football  
Presidents Award (Female): Tori Hawkins, Soccer; and  
Nayara Moraes, Tennis

Male Athlete of the Year: Ronnie Jebavey, Baseball

Female Athlete of the Year: Avery George, Golf

Male Newcomer of the Year: John Ampomah, Track

Female Newcomer of the Year: Hannah Maina, Cross Country

Female Most Improved Player: Ty Petty, Women's Basketball

Male Most Improved Player: Jacque Rozier, Men's Basketball

All-Americans: Cordairo Golden—Track (First Team All-American);

Eliud Rutto—Track (First Team All-American);

Trent Miller—Baseball (Third Team Louisville Slugger)

SAEC Achievement Award: Male: Darius Johnson, Football;

Female: India Hammond, Track

Make A Difference Award: Shelley Godwin, Women's Tennis

Director's Cup: Men's Basketball

Team GPA Award/Fall 2014: Women's Golf

Team GPA Award/Spring 2014: Women's Soccer

Game/Event of the Year: Football's 3 OT win at home against WKU

Performance of the Year: Ronnie Jebavey reached base all six times to clinch series over No. 19 FAU. Jebavey went 3-for-5 with an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. He scored the game-tying run in the ninth to force extra innings.

Play of the Year: Grace Summers scored the game-winning goal in overtime as Middle Tennessee defeated host Charlotte in the C-USA Soccer Tournament. The win put the Blue Raiders into the semifinals



Pictured (l-r): Director of Athletics Chris Massaro, Ben Davis, Jesse Grace, Nayara Moraes, Tori Hawkins, Jordan Parker, Danielle Shadley, and Garrett Ring.

able to compete nationally. The look in front of our stadium with the two statues is a great centerpiece to our campus and really showcases our history."

### Seven Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma National Honor Society

The Athletic Department inducted seven student-athletes into Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society March 23 at Rose and Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame.

Four women and three men were inducted into the Blue Raider's 11th class. Women's tennis had two inductees, and there was one each from men's tennis, football, soccer, baseball, and softball.

Women's tennis inductees were **Nayara Moraes** and **Jesse Grace**; Ben Davis represented men's tennis.

Other inductees were **Tori Hawkins** (soccer), **Jordan Parker** (football), **Garrett Ring** (baseball), and **Danielle Shadley** (softball).

Chi Alpha Sigma is a nonprofit organization established to recognize college students who earn a varsity letter in at least one sport while maintaining a

3.4 or higher cumulative GPA throughout their junior and senior years. The organization's goal is to recognize outstanding academic achievement by intercollegiate athletes.

Middle Tennessee has now inducted 136 student-athletes into the society after just 11 years of institutional eligibility. In 2005, the first year Blue Raiders could be inducted, 26 were recognized. Ten were inducted in 2006, 15 in 2007, 10 in 2008, nine in 2009, 16 in 2010, 13 in 2011, 4 in 2012, 12 in 2013, 14 in 2014, and 7 in 2015.

### The Grove, Raiders to Host 2017 NCAA Golf Regional

The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Golf Committees announced in January the regional and championship sites for play from 2016 to 2018. The Grove Club, one of the Blue Raiders' home courses, will be a regional site in 2017. Middle Tennessee will be the host school for the men's event, which will be held May 15 to May 17.

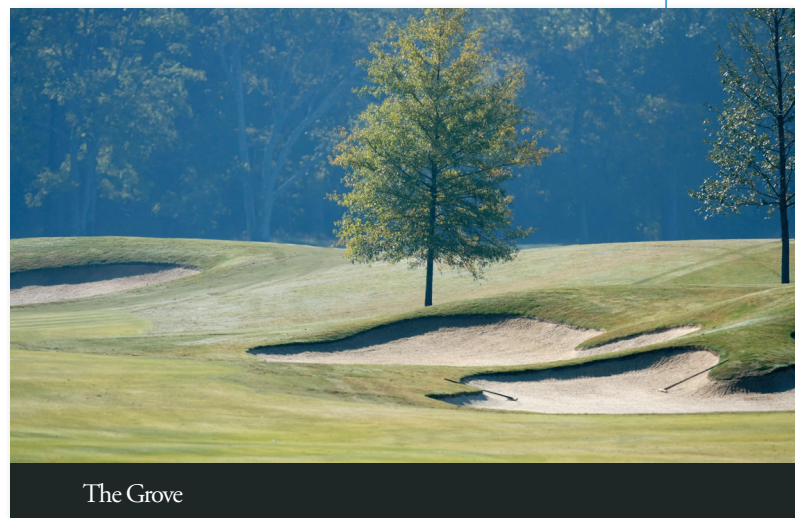
This will be the first NCAA regional event hosted by Middle Tennessee since the 1979 NCAA

Basketball Tournament Midwest Regional at Murphy Center.

"It was surprising to learn it has been so long since we hosted a predetermined NCAA event," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "So this is really important for our program to host, and I am confident our Blue Raider community will get behind this event and support it.

"The Grove is a fabulous golf course with unmatched facilities and I know the NCAA and all the student-athletes will have a great experience. The Grove and our staff will make sure it is a first-class presentation."

The Grove, a par 72, 7,368-yard course, opened in 2012. It was designed by PGA legend Greg Norman. **RR**



The Grove



# RAIDERS IN



Photo by  
St. Louis Rams

## Football

Benny Cunningham (2009–12)	NFL	St. Louis Rams
Kenneth Gilstrap (2009–13)	AFL	New Orleans VooDoo
Rod Issac (2007–10)	AFL	Tampa Bay Storm
Jeremy Kellem (2007–10)	AFL	Arizona Rattlers
Jamari Lattimore (2008–10)	NFL	New York Jets
Keon Raymond (2004–05)	CFL	Calgary Stampeders
Jimmy Staten (2010–13)	NFL	Seattle Seahawks
Alex Suber (2005–09)	CFL	Toronto Argonauts
Phillip Tanner (2006–10)	NFL	San Francisco 49ers
Erik Walden (2004–07)	NFL	Indianapolis Colts
Josh Walker (2010–13)	NFL	Green Bay Packers



Photo by Indianapolis Colts



Photo by MLB

## Baseball

Hunter Adkins (2010–12)	A	Oakland Athletics
Matt Blackham (2014)	Rookie	New York Mets
Bryce Brentz (2008–10)	MLB	Boston Red Sox
Brett Carroll (2002–04)	AAA	Toronto Blue Jays (Released)
Zac Curtis (2013–14)	A	Arizona Diamondbacks
Andy Haines	AAA	Miami Marlins (Manager)
Michael McKenry (2004–06)	MLB	Colorado Rockies
Justin Miller (2008–10)	A	Washington Nationals (Released)
Trent Miller (2011–14)	A	Toronto Blue Jays
Paul Mittura (2010–14)	Independent	Frontier Greys
Jeremy Owens (1996–98)	Independent	Southern Maryland Blue Crabs (OF/Coach)
Kenneth Roberts (2007–10)	AA	Colorado Rockies
Will Skinner (2010–11)	A	Atlanta Braves (Released)
Ryan Stephens (2011–14)	A	Colorado Rockies
Coty Woods (2009)	Independent	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks

## Women's Soccer

Shan Jones (2008–11)	Long Island Rough Riders
Vanessa Mueggler (2007–10)	Ottawa Fury
Lisa Marie Woods (2004)	Adelaide (Australia)



# THE PROS



Photo by Seattle Storm

## Men's Basketball

K.C. Anuna (2008–11)	Nigeria
Tim Blue (2006–07)	France
Raymond Cintron (2012–13)	Puerto Rico
Michael Cuffee (2004–05)	Germany
LaRon Dendy (2012)	Turkey
Jani Hiltunen (2000–01)	Finland
John Humphrey (2002–03)	Japan
Neiko Hunter (2012–14)	Hungary
Jason Jones (2010–13)	Bolivia
Shawn Jones (2010–14)	NBA Development
Sioux Falls Skyforce	
Marcos Knight (2011–13)	Germany
Bruce Massey (2012–13)	NBA D-League
Marcus Morrison (2005–06)	Mexico
Steve Thomas (2005)	Venezuela
Torin Walker (2011–14)	Mongolia
James Washington (2009–11)	Sweden

Photo by Dave Eggen/  
NBAE via Getty Images



## Women's Basketball

Alysha Clark (2009–10)	WNBA	Seattle Storm
Chrissy Givens (2004–07)	Euro	CS Municipal Targoviste
Cheyenne Parker (2014–15)	WNBA	Chicago Sky



Photo by Getty Images

## Track and Field

Noah Akwu	Nigeria
Ann Dudley	US
Stanley Gbagbeke	Nigeria
Cordairo Golden	US
Emmanuel Tugumisirize	Uganda

Photo by Craig Mitchell/Idyer/  
Hillsboro Hops



Photo by Bob Donnan, USA Today

## Men's Golf

Kent Bulle (2006–10)	PGA Tour LatinAmerica
Rick Cochran (2005–09)	Web.com Tour
Hunter Green (2009–12)	NGA Tour
Jason Millard (2008–11)	Web.com Tour
Chase Narramore (2005–09)	Web.com Tour







# UPCOMING



# EVENTS

**10-13**

**JUNE**

Track and Field/  
Cross Country NCAA  
Outdoor  
Championships,  
Eugene, Oregon

**29**

**JUNE**

Greater Nashville  
Blue Raider Golf  
Scramble, Hermitage  
Golf Course, Old  
Hickory, Tennessee

**30**

**JUNE**

BRAA Donation  
Deadline

**2015**

**JULY**

Football Parking  
Passes Mailed

**2015**

**AUGUST**

BRAA Appreciation  
Dinner

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# MIDDLE TENNESSEE

## BLUE RAIDER FOOTBALL 2015



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9.5



9.19



10.3

HOMECOMING



10.17



11.7



11.21

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