

# RAIDER REVIEW

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2015-16 ■ VOL. 2 NO. 2



**Brandi Brown**  
Jamestown



**Alysha Clark**  
Mt. Juliet



**Kortni Jones**  
Oak Ridge



**Anne Marie Lanning**  
Murfreesboro

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Lady Raider basketball coach **Rick Insell** has built a powerhouse program with talent found in his own backyard



High expectations for the 2015-16 season

## Perrin Buford

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# RAIDER REVIEW

Middle Tennessee State University  
Blue Raider Athletic Association  
Winter 2015–16 / Vol. 2, No. 2

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## ON THE COVER



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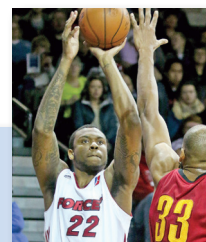
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Chris Massaro

# From the Desk of the **A.D.**

Your investment through the BRAA allows us to do exactly that. Because of our success in the annual drive we have been able to be very generous when it comes to summer school opportunities and post-eligibility aid to graduate and other academic initiatives. This continued investment and overriding philosophy of putting the student-athlete at the heart of the program has allowed us to continue to be a conference leader in APR and other academic measurements. Additionally, when the NCAA passed legislation to allow unlimited meals, we quickly found a way to get more food to our student-athletes. When the NCAA passed legislation for the cost of attendance, enhancing the well-being of every

student-athlete, we were able to respond to the challenge.

We are able to fund the cost of attendance scholarship this year with a budget increase of \$375,000. These significant budget changes have increased the urgency to raise our revenues in order to pay for rising scholarship costs. We all can feel good that these benefits, such as cost of attendance scholarship, go directly to those who have earned them, our student-athletes. These changes will help ensure our success and lay the foundation to achieve our goal of dominating Conference USA.

Together, we have accomplished a great deal, and we are poised for even greater days ahead. On behalf of all of us in MT Athletics, I thank you for

**O**ne of the principles I have tried to instill in the Athletic Department for the last 11 years is putting the student-athlete at the heart of the program. Providing opportunities for them is at the core of our mission. Through your generosity and support, we provide those opportunities for all student-athletes to realize their full potential and discover their best both on and off the playing field.

always putting our student-athletes first. It is my hope that this magazine continues to put on full display the wonderful accomplishments of our student-athletes and our alumni and to reinforce the message that none of this is possible without your investment and support.

You have helped countless young people accomplish their dreams, and we are happy to profile a number of them in this forum for your reading enjoyment. **Thanks for being TRUE BLUE!**

**Chris Massaro**  
Director of Athletics

## “It’s not Business... >>> It’s Personal”



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# THERE'S NO PLACE

# LIKE HOME



**Rick Insell**

Lady Raider basketball coach **Rick Insell** has built a powerhouse program with talent found in his own backyard

by Tony Stinnett

**R**ick Insell had an overwhelming competitive advantage when he was hired as the seventh head coach in Middle Tennessee women's basketball history.

Not only did the veteran coach, a member of five different athletic halls of fame, have a superior understanding of the game of basketball and what it took to succeed, he also had an unparalleled reputation in high school girls' basketball in Tennessee—a nationally recognized hotbed for the sport.

Insell knew the impact an influx of local talent could have on the MT program, and he did nothing to injure his national championship aspirations when he stated in 2005 that he would chiefly recruit in-state players to the Lady Raider program.

"High school girls basketball in the state of Tennessee is outstanding," Insell said. "When I was hired . . . I made it very clear that we would recruit Tennessee first and foremost. We do recruit nationally, but our home base is



**Shanice Cason**  
Murfreesboro



**Laken Leonard**  
Whitleyville



**Olivia Jones**  
Murfreesboro

ALABAMA

Tennessee, and we have been fortunate to sign outstanding players from Tennessee.”

## Home Cooking

Arguably, no one knows more about the quality of prep players in Tennessee than Insell. One of the state’s all-time winningest high school coaches, he enjoyed a stellar career at Shelbyville Central High School, where he won 775 games and a TSSAA-record 10 AAA state championships and helped 43 student-athletes win Division I scholarships. He also ran one of the nation’s top AAU programs before turning it over to his son, Tom.

Those contacts and knowledge of the best programs in the state have enabled Insell to sign some of Tennessee’s top high school players. He has developed the skills of those recruits, turning them into first-rate college players.

Along the way, Insell has kept his recruitment promise to the Blue Raider faithful. Since his hiring, he has signed 25 Tennessee high school players and has had at least five in-state players on the roster of every team he has coached at Middle Tennessee. Many of those in-state players have proven to be some of the best ever to wear a Blue Raider uniform.

“We have exceptional high school coaches in Tennessee, and that’s a big reason for the development of the young ladies,” Insell said. “Coaches stress fundamentals and develop their players. You have to give the coaches credit. They work tirelessly and many of them coach the players in AAU in the summer, and they also give up their summers for camps and such.

“You also have to give players credit,” he continued. “They put in the work, and they play in summer programs and attend camps. This state is full of talented athletes.”

## Proof in the Pudding

Former Bradley Central standout **Jackie Pickel** was Insell’s first signee at Middle

Tennessee. She had also played for him in AAU. Pickel left the Lady Raider program as one of its all-time best three-point shooters, a member of the 1,000-point club, and a Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. (See a related story on Pickel on page 10 in this magazine.)

“The decision to play for Coach Insell at Middle Tennessee was a life-changing moment,” Pickel said. “You never know what one decision can do for you, but I was able to be part of something special, something great. By using in-state players, coupled with some good out-of-state

players, Coach Insell has truly built something the entire Middle Tennessee area should be proud of.”

In all, six of Insell’s in-state signees are members of the program’s 1,000-point club. They are **Alysha Clark** (1,756), **Kortni Jones** (1,390), **Icelyn Elie** (1,283), **Brandi Brown** (1,236), **Anne Marie Lanning** (1,183), and **Pickel** (1,022).

Those local players enjoyed the best of both worlds—the chance to play close to home and for one of the nation’s most consistently successful

programs. Middle Tennessee has won 20-plus games in each of Insell’s 10 previous seasons and has appeared in a national postseason tournament at the end of all 10 campaigns.

“For me, there was no reason to consider another school,” said Lanning, a Riverdale High School graduate. “Coming to Middle Tennessee allowed me to play for a great program and a great coach. We played in front of great crowds and had a large fan base and following. Since we had so many in-state players on the team, I already knew a lot of my teammates because I had faced them in AAU and in high school games. I had a wonderful experience at Middle Tennessee and had some wonderful teammates who remain close friends to this day.”

When it comes to the Lady Raider basketball program, it’s clear there is no place quite like home. **RR**

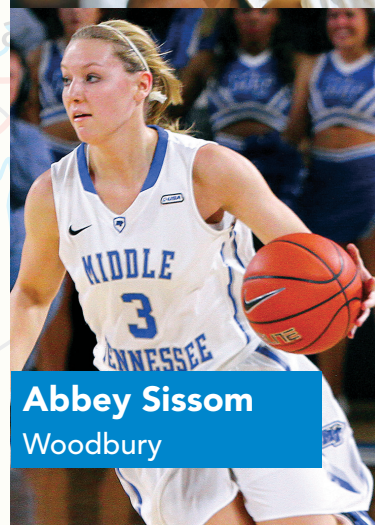
**Many of those in-state players have proven to be some of the best ever to wear a Blue Raider uniform.**



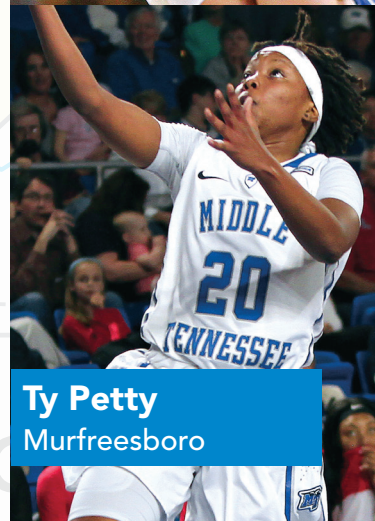
**Jackie Pickel**  
Cleveland



**Icelyn Elie**  
Lebanon



**Abbey Sissom**  
Woodbury



**Ty Petty**  
Murfreesboro

# LEAVING IT ALL ON THE COURT

by Alex Mitchell

**Perrin Buford's** evolution into a leader on the Blue Raider basketball squad has translated into high expectations for the 2015–16 season

**A**s a high school senior, Middle Tennessee combo-guard Perrin Buford had a solid work ethic, a strong faith in himself and God, and basketball skills, of course. But even he admits he wasn't ready to play Division I basketball.

"Coming out of high school, I had a lot of things to work on, including my maturity," Buford said. "I was ready to play Division I basketball in terms of skill, but God had a different plan."



That plan led Buford to first enroll at Motlow State Community College and later at Southwest Tennessee Community College. At Southwest, he was named All-State, catching the interest of college coaches from around the nation, including Kermit Davis at Middle Tennessee.

Buford said that prayer, coupled with support from his family, led him to commit to being a Blue Raider. He joined the team before the 2014–15 season.

## The Road Less Traveled

Like many rookies, Buford's first season at MT was a bit rocky. Through the month of January, he was averaging just 13.6 minutes per game.

"The beginning of last year was a learning process," he said. "I felt like I deserved to play right away, but there were some things that I didn't have figured out. I had to learn what Coach Davis wanted out of me and how to adjust to the 'Middle Tennessee Way.'"

That adjustment meant spending more time in the gym, paying closer attention in the film room, and, most of all, being patient.

"The main thing for me was being patient and waiting for my time to come," Buford said. "I just had to stay focused because it's a long season. I learned to be one of those guys that grinds and just tries to get better day by day. When my time came, I was ready because of all the hard work I had put into my game."

Buford's work paid off for him and for his team. From MT's February 5 game onward, Buford averaged more than 24 minutes per game, and his 160 total points were tops on the team. With Buford in a leading role, MT won three games in the Conference USA Tournament, and fell just one win short of earning an NCAA Tournament bid. Buford was named to the All-Tournament team after averaging 13 points and 4.3 rebounds per game.

"I knew that my moment was coming because I was working hard and praying," Buford said when asked about his late-season evolution. "When coach called my name, it was like a light bulb went off, and I knew what he wanted me to do."

## The Next Level

This off-season, Buford has been training even harder, inspired by how close the team was to getting an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Buford's teammates have noticed his increased drive. He is now considered a leader on the team not only because he is a senior but also because of how he handles himself.

"I would say that I am a vocal leader, because I will call guys out if they aren't doing what they are supposed to do," Buford said. "I hope that I am a leader by example, too, because I work really hard in practice and I play every play like it's my last."

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**"My parents told me that basketball would take me places that I would never expect to go."**

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Buford and the rest of the Blue Raiders provided a preview of how good they could be this coming season during a once-in-a-lifetime overseas trip to the Bahamas this past summer. At an off-season tournament there, MT went undefeated. More importantly, the team got extra time to practice together and to bond as friends during their free time.

"My parents told me that basketball would take me places that I would never expect to go," Buford said. "Going to the Bahamas was my first time ever leaving the country, so it was very fun. [I] had three days to hang out with my teammates and go snorkeling, but we also got to play basketball, which is why I am here."

Buford also experienced another first this summer when he took part in

a marketing internship with Middle Tennessee athletics.

"The marketing internship I had was interesting because I got to see what all the different departments do for us and other programs," he said. "I got a little taste of how they plan, sell tickets, and get the community involved, so I have a lot of respect for what they do."

Middle Tennessee has given Buford an opportunity to play Division I basketball, get an education, take a trip abroad, and even get a taste of real-world working experience. In 2015–16, Buford said he intends to pay it forward.

"I have high expectations, and this year has to be my year," he said. "It will be my last and I want to leave it all out on the court." **RR**



# Shooting Star

by Tony Stinnett

**Lady Raider basketball legend Jackie Pickel's sweet stroke from beyond the arc paved the way to a lifetime of MTSU memories and friends**



# **J**ackie Pickel was destined to become a star basketball player at Middle Tennessee— probably even before she realized it herself.

Pickel was Lady Raider basketball coach Rick Insell's first signee at Middle Tennessee. She had played AAU basketball for Insell before he joined Middle Tennessee when he was still the head girls' basketball coach at Shelbyville Central High School.

"I had played for Coach Insell in AAU since I was 13," Pickel said. "When I was in eighth grade, I had never heard of Shelbyville, but my mom and dad were telling me what a big deal it was that they wanted me to play AAU for them. My parents never made a big deal of things, so I knew then that I was going to be hooked up with a pretty good coach."

Throughout the AAU experience, Middle Tennessee was not on Pickel's radar until Insell was hired as head women's basketball coach at the University before the 2005–06 season.

"I had narrowed my visits to two or three schools before my senior year, and Middle Tennessee had not been on the radar," Pickel said. "From the moment when I received a call and found out Coach Insell had been hired at Middle Tennessee, it was no longer a question: If Coach Insell offered me a scholarship, I was going to Middle Tennessee."

Insell offered, and Pickel accepted. She soon began what would prove to be a highly successful collegiate career.

Pickel played for Middle Tennessee from 2006 to 2010, which was one of the best four-year runs in the program's history. During those years, Pickel played in four postseason national tournaments, including three trips to the NCAA Regional and one WNIT appearance.

The Cleveland, Tenn., native played in 132 games during her Blue Raider career

and missed just one, tying the career mark. The Blue Raiders had a 105–28 record during those years. She ranks third all-time in three-pointers (248). Her .326 career shooting percentage from beyond the arc ranks 10th all-time. She is also a member of the exclusive 1,000-point club.

"Sometimes you are destined to be part of something special," Pickel said.

As much as Pickel shone with the Lady Raider basketball squad, her off-the-court MTSU experiences also affected her life. Pickel said she could not have known how important her teammates and coaches

## **Even after I had graduated, the MTSU community wrapped their arms around me**

would be to her when she signed at Middle Tennessee, in large part because shortly following her graduation, her father, Jimmy, passed away unexpectedly at age 54.

"When my dad died, it was the single most difficult thing in my life," Pickel said. "The support and love I received from my teammates, coaches, and support staff were incredible. We had graduated, and my teammates were not in Murfreesboro anymore; but they all drove to East Tennessee to support my family and me. Coach Insell and Mrs. Deb [Insell] came as well, along with other coaches and players.

"Even after I had graduated, the MTSU community wrapped their arms around me, and that was really cool," Pickel said. "When that happened, it was like we were on the same team still. From there, I knew they were there for me for life."

These days, Pickel and her husband, Colt Davis, live in Knoxville, where Pickel is a schoolteacher. The couple recently welcomed their first child, Nora James Davis. Pickel is taking this year off to stay at home with her newborn but says she expects to return to the classroom next year.

Jackie Pickel-Davis, as she is now known, downplays her athletic prowess during her Middle Tennessee career. She prefers to give the praise to her teammates— and it was truly a great class—although Pickel was obviously a key contributor to the squad's success.

"My teammates made it memorable for me," Pickel said. "If it wasn't for the teammates I had, specifically the ones in my class, it would have been for naught. Since graduation, we have remained in contact. We are as close as ever, and I consider them family."

Pickel says Lady Raider fans were a constant supportive presence in Murphy Center and made her career a remarkable experience.

Those fans still have a special place in their hearts for Jackie Pickel, too. **RR**



Jackie Pickel-Davis and her husband, Colt Davis



# HEART OF A CHAMPION

by Keith Ryan Cartwright

**Brent Brock** still pours his heart into every day he spends mentoring players on the Blue Raider football team

**B**rent Brock, an important part of Middle Tennessee football for nearly a decade, tries to help student-athletes every day.

"People who know me—people who get to spend some time with me—know I'm very much to the heart in everything I do," said Brock, now in his third season as director of player development. "I've enjoyed life to its fullest even back to when I was a little, chubby boy running around in South Georgia. . . . I speak from my heart, I make decisions with my heart, and I respond to things with my heart."



## A New Development

Speaking of hearts, Brock's story is proof of just how ironic life can be.

Three years ago on a game day in October, while the Blue Raiders were playing South Alabama, Coach Brock began "having some issues," as he described it during the game. Afterward, his longtime friend Head Coach Rick Stockstill suggested that he get checked out.

After telling Stockstill that he had inherited some health issues, Brock eventually revealed that he suffered from heart disease.

Brock had a heart attack at age 38 and had bypass surgery in 2004. After the on-field event in 2012, doctors told him he could still live a healthy life without more invasive surgery. However, specialists told him he might want to discuss with his family how stressful a lifestyle he wanted to live going forward.

The idea to have Brock step off the sidelines as a position coach and turn his attention, instead, to the player-development position he now holds emerged from Coach Stockstill's concern and deep thought over the situation. For Stockstill, it had less to do with the effect the move would have on his coaching staff and more to do with ensuring the long-term health of his good friend. (Stockstill and Brock played football together at Florida State from 1976 to 1981.)

In January 2013, Brock accepted his new role.

"I did what I think was the best thing not only for my wife and me but also for Stock and his football team," Brock said. "You always assume your playing days will be over with; but once you do get out of the playing mode, and you're still involved like you are in coaching, and you want to coach for as long as you can live and still

make a difference in kids' lives and make a difference with the team and community, you don't ever anticipate that part coming to an end.

"You never want to hear 'It's over with.' So I was very thankful to hear [Stockstill] say, 'No, you don't have to go back to South Georgia sitting in a chair fishing,'" Brock said. "That's not what I'm about and never have been about."

The transition from on-field coach to player-development leader hasn't been all sweetness and light.

## A New Leaf

During his time on the sidelines at Middle Tennessee, Brock spent three seasons coaching tight ends and three more working with inside receivers. He also coached the running backs in 2012. In his player-development position, he now has the opportunity to affect the lives of all the players.

Part of Brock's job is staying involved in the players' personal lives. He monitors grades and eligibility and deals with off-the-field issues involving family, love life, friends, or even locker room problems.

Brock also handles all community service projects for Blue Raider football and directs the summer football camp.

The players know that Brock was once a player. But the transition from on-field coach to player-development leader hasn't been all sweetness and light.

"There's no question," said Brock. "I cried a lot, and I don't mind telling you that. I'm a grown man, and I cried a lot. I was very disappointed that I couldn't continue from a health standpoint.

"[We] were in full agreement, though, that maybe this is something I needed to do that might help me live a little longer. It was a tough transition to start with, as my wife will tell you. And I still struggle with it a little bit."

"It's exciting to get up in the morning and go to Stock's staff meetings," said Brock, who added that he never second-guessed himself on the field or thought twice about decisions during a game and isn't about to start now. "You're going to get a little bit of football, a little bit of life, go over players as a whole staff . . . and then I have my little roles with [them] that I need to take care of—whether it's academic driven or whether it's driven to make sure young'uns are doing right."

Brock said it's still tough to accept that he is no longer a position coach when camp opens. But he still gets motivated and rejuvenated each summer.

"I'm not just talking football with these guys," Brock said. "When I start feeling sorry for myself for not being an on-the-field coach, I stop because I really feel this has become the next calling in this profession for me. And I really enjoy it."

The relationships and experiences he now shares with players are less player-to-coach and more man-to-man. If he's lucky, said Brock, it becomes "friend-to-friend."

Brock's there for the players to lean on. He said there are times when a player will share something with him that they normally wouldn't talk about with a coach.

Much of that trust comes from the team's knowledge that Brent Brock had to say goodbye to coaching, something that he loved; and yet he stayed in Murfreesboro, and every day he brings the same passion to his newest job as he has done at every position he's ever played.

It's all about heart. **RR**



**VIEW  
FROM  
THE**

# PRESSBOX



Chip Walters

The Voice of the Blue Raiders

# GIFTS ABUNDANT AS HOLIDAYS APPROACH

**H**ard to believe, but you can count the weeks until Christmas on both hands. Time flies when you're having fun, and we're about to dive headfirst into one of the most fun times of the athletic year.

From Halloween until the calendar turns to 2016, there aren't many days that you won't have a chance to cheer on the Blue Raiders.

For Blue Raider football, it's a stretch run toward a seventh bowl-eligible season in ten under Coach Rick Stockstill. Marshall and North Texas will be great opportunities for wins at home, and there are road challenges at FAU and UTSA.

Both basketball teams begin their nonconference slates, and both have schedules that offer fans many opportunities to enjoy important matchups before the Conference USA season begins in January.

Rick Insell's Lady Raiders will open the home season against national powerhouse Virginia and welcome Ole Miss back to Murphy Center for the third father-son Insell-versus-Insell coaching matchup.

**Here's hoping we all have plenty of Blue Raider gifts to unwrap this holiday season**

Middle will go on the road for nearly three weeks to face Alabama and Nevada in Reno before traveling to Austin Peay and Xavier.

A three-game home stand just before Christmas against Kentucky, Missouri State, and Tennessee Tech in addition to a road trip to Ohio will set the Raiders up for conference play.

Following a memorable run to the Conference USA title game, Kermit Davis has crafted an equally challenging preconference schedule that begins on the road at Murray State and Tennessee State. The Blue Raiders will also travel to the land of the midnight sun for three games in the Great Alaska Shootout.

December brings one of the most exciting home stretches in recent memory. The Raiders begin a home-and-home with VCU on December 2 before hosting former Sun Belt rival South Alabama three days later. Middle Tennessee will take over Bridgestone Arena on December 12 to host the Auburn Tigers and will entertain Belmont at Murphy Center on December 17. Tough road games at Georgia State and South Dakota State will bookend Christmas before Trevecca comes to the Glass House on the eve of New Year's Eve.

Someone once said, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Here's hoping we all have plenty of Blue Raider gifts to unwrap this holiday season. **RR**

# INFORMATION FOR BOOSTERS, FANS, AND FRIENDS OF THE BLUE RAIDERS



Erika Austin  
Assistant Athletic Director/  
Compliance and Licensing

It is an exciting time for Middle Tennessee athletics! Expectations are high for all our programs. As interest and support continues to grow, so does the responsibility we all have to understand and comply with NCAA rules and regulations. These rules apply to all friends, fans, ticket holders, and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University.

Therefore, the University is directly responsible for any actions you may take relating to any NCAA rules.

This information is presented as a quick reference to the many NCAA rules that apply to our athletics representatives. Not all applicable situations are included, so please call if you have questions. The department appreciates your interest and support but reminds you that an inappropriate contact or an inadvertent action on your part can jeopardize the eligibility of our prospects and student-athletes. When in doubt, the safest action is to ask before you act.

## Am I considered a representative of MT's athletics interests (a booster/donor)?

A booster/donor is a person who

- is a member of an organization that promotes MT's athletics interests, such as the BRAA, or has ever belonged to such a club;
- has donated to the Athletics Department or to the BRAA;
- has ever purchased or held season tickets for any sport;
- has assisted or is assisting in the recruitment of a student-athlete in any way;
- has assisted or is assisting in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; and/or
- is a former student-athlete.

## Can I contact a prospective student-athlete or his/her parents or legal guardians?

No. A booster/donor may not contact a prospect or his/her parents in person, by telephone, in writing, or by any electronic means of communication (i.e., Internet chat room, text message, email, etc.). Deliberate contact may not be made with a prospect or his/her parents on or off MTSU's campus for purposes of recruiting the prospect. Unavoidable incidental contact does happen, and as long as you confine your conversation with the

prospect to typical conversation and do not provide the prospect with a "recruiting pitch" you will be fine.

## What if I am an "established family friend" or neighbor? Can I contact the prospect?

Yes, because a preexisting relationship with the prospect may trump this NCAA legislation. However, it must be understood that such contacts cannot be made for recruiting purposes and cannot be initiated or arranged by MT staff members. In addition, the established relationship must have occurred before the friend or neighbor becomes a prospect.

## What if a prospect calls a booster/donor?

If a prospect contacts a booster/donor, he/she may answer questions regarding any aspect of MT (such as academics, the city of Murfreesboro, or campus lifestyle) as long as NO discussion takes place about the MT athletics program. **If a prospect asks about MT athletics, refer him/her to a coaching staff member in the Athletics Department.**

## Is it permissible for a booster/donor to bring to MT's attention outstanding prospects from the representative's local area?

Yes. However, a donor/booster may not get involved in the actual evaluation of the talent of a prospect. In other words, a booster/donor may not contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor. They cannot visit the prospect's educational institution to pick up video or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's athletic or academic abilities. In addition, a booster/donor cannot contact the prospect for purposes of soliciting his or her enrollment to MT and participation in athletics.

## May I attend events where prospects are present?

Yes. A booster may attend events that prospects attend or at which a prospect is competing (i.e., banquet, high school game), provided the booster does NOT contact the prospect or the prospect's parents or relatives.

Middle Tennessee State University thanks you for your continued support and understanding. We are proud to have friends like you who have always kept MT's interests first and foremost and who will continue to maintain the integrity of MT athletics. If you have any questions regarding NCAA rules, please contact our Compliance Office at 615-494-8652. **RR**



Keith McCluney  
Associate Athletic  
Director/Development

# STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING: WHERE WINNING BEGINS

**Every morning I make an effort to work out and begin my day with something positive. With work, family, and community obligations, it's the only time I can fit it into my schedule.**

Every day as I make my way into and out of Murphy Center, I regularly run into many of our student-athletes on their way to work out in our strength and conditioning center. My early arrival on campus is a choice for me, but for many of our student-athletes and teams, it's the only time they can get scheduled into the facility.

For many years we have had 17 sports and over 300 student-athletes sharing our 7,000 square-foot strength and conditioning space. With the academic rigors of Middle Tennessee between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and practices typically from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., not to mention team meetings, study hall, and other activities, there are only a few windows of opportunity for our student-athletes to train. To accommodate everyone's training needs, some teams start early in the morning, and others train well into the evening.

Last fall, upon my arrival at Middle Tennessee, we began looking at where we could have an immediate impact on our student-athletes and how big that

impact could be. Our weight room was in need of attention; and after speaking with the Athletics Executive Committee, we decided that a total overhaul of this facility would have the desired effect on all student-athletes and programs, which is exactly what we were hoping for. A better training facility would go a long way to displaying our commitment to student-athlete success. The plan was

**Let's resolve to make Middle Tennessee athletics better in every way.**

immediately put in place, and BRAA members who supported the project responded overwhelmingly. We were able to implement a fully funded plan for conditioning space expansion that gives our coaches another recruiting tool. I am certain that this renovated facility has infused our programs with renewed enthusiasm and a greater sense of pride. Our ability to be successful on the field begins in the newly upgraded Middle Tennessee Sports Performance Center. It's now much more than a weight room and will continue to be the foundation of

athletic success for Blue Raider teams for many years to come.

The Blue Raider Athletic Association staff is thankful for the privilege of engaging with generous donors and friends of Middle Tennessee athletics. Your consistent support over the years makes a difference in the lives of the young men and women who choose to represent the Blue Raiders in competition, in the classroom, and in the community. We are proud to carry out the mission of this great university and have a role in providing the best intercollegiate athletic experience for all our student-athletes. Without BRAA members, we know that this goal would never be met. Thank you for choosing to make MTSU better. Our student-athletes are the best at what they do, and our donors are truly "the team behind the team" that makes all of it possible. Let's resolve to make Middle Tennessee athletics better in every way. Our pursuit of excellence should drive everything we do.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Floyd Stadium, Murphy Center, and all across campus, cheering the Blue Raiders on to victory! Please continue to support us and encourage your friends to give us an opportunity to earn their support. We want our organization to be the launching pad of success for all our student-athletes.

With your help, we will do it!

**GO BLUE! RR**

# BRAA YEAR-END GIVING



The last day you can make a donation and receive tax credit for 2015 is Thursday, December 31. You can call our office at (615) 898-2210, or give online anytime at [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

Keep up with the Blue Raider Athletic Association and connect with other members on Facebook and Twitter!



[Facebook.com/BRAA](https://www.facebook.com/BRAA)



@MT\_BRAA

# BRAA BASKETBALL DINNERS

The BRAA will host two dinners during the 2015–16 basketball season: one before a home men’s game and one before a home women’s game. Both dinners will be held in the Auxiliary Gym of Murphy Center. Please RSVP by calling the BRAA at (615) 898-2210.

## FEBRUARY 11

Women’s Basketball  
vs. Louisiana Tech (6:30 p.m.)

## FEBRUARY 25

Men’s Basketball  
vs. Western Kentucky (6:00 p.m.)



*President's Reserve  
General's Retreat*

## Hermitage Golf Course

- **“Top 10 in State” Golf Digest**
- **“4-1/2 Star Rating.” Golf Digest Magazine’s Highest award in Tennessee.**
- ESPN ZAGAT SURVEY - “America’s Top Golf Courses”
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- Maximum Golf’s “One of the 100 Best Bargain Golf Courses in the United States”
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- Golf For Women’s “50 Best Courses for Women”

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# Blue Raider Athletic Association

The 2015 Chuck Taylor Blue Raider Golf Classic was held at Stones River Country Club on Monday, September 21, 2015. A great and enthusiastic group of Blue Raider supporters came out to play and compete for the grand prize: a trip to play and represent MTSU at Pinehurst!

Congratulations to our winning team of Ben Leyhew, Chris Taylor, David Galland and Dan Ebbutt. They successfully defended their 2014 title!

We had a great turnout and beautiful weather for golf. This year's tournament raised over \$20,000 for MT student-athlete scholarships. Next year join us for a great opportunity to play golf, have fun, and raise money for MT student-athletes!

# 2015 Chuck Taylor Blue Raider Golf Classic

## September 21, 2015



Keith McCluney (Associate Athletic Director), Erika Austin (Assistant Athletic Director), and Whit Turnbow (Senior Associate Athletic Director)



Ben Leyhew, Chris Taylor, David Galland and Dan Ebbutt



Johnny Sullivan, Darron Shatley, Joe Bales, and Jim Stubblefield



Bob Verble, Monte Sellers, John Polk, and Garey Eakes



Winners of the 2015 Chuck Taylor Blue Raider Golf Classic, Dan Ebbutt, David Gowan, Ben Leyhew, and Chris Taylor with honoree Chuck Taylor



Peggy Schroer, Austin Bryant, Bethany Thurston, and Brandon Hawkins



Scott Means, Mike Smith, Chris Lanning, and Rick Hardesty

# MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HOME BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Basketball is here! We hope to see you at all our men's and women's games at Murphy Center this season!

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

November 12 vs. Faulkner  
December 2 vs. VCU  
December 17 vs. Belmont  
December 30 vs. Trevecca  
January 7 vs. UTEP  
January 9 vs. UTSA  
January 21 vs. North Texas  
January 23 vs. Rice  
February 4 vs. Florida Atlantic  
February 6 vs. Florida International  
February 21 vs. UAB  
February 25 vs. Western Kentucky  
February 27 vs. Marshall

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

November 4 vs. Coastal Georgia  
November 9 vs. Martin Methodist  
November 13 vs. Virginia  
November 22 vs. Ole Miss  
December 13 vs. Kentucky  
December 17 vs. Missouri State  
December 20 vs. Tennessee Tech  
January 3 vs. UAB  
January 14 vs. Charlotte  
January 16 vs. Old Dominion  
January 28 vs. Marshall  
January 30 vs. Western Kentucky  
February 11 vs. Louisiana Tech  
February 13 vs. Southern Miss  
March 3 vs. FAU  
March 5 vs. FIU

*Schedule subject to change*



## BLUE RAIDER FAN PHOTOS

Kinsley Oldham is all dressed up and ready to cheer on her Blue Raiders!

Send us your photos, and you could be featured in our next issue!



# Donor SPOTLIGHT



## Chris Tynes

- MTSU Alum
- Year Graduated: 1994
- Consecutive Years Giving to the BRAA: 5
- Currently Resides: Murfreesboro



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

**A.**I became a fan of MTSU when I visited the college while in high school. MTSU was an hour from home, so I made several visits over the fall and winter.

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

**A.**My first MTSU game was for men's basketball, and I attended my freshman year of college.

**Q.**What are your favorite MTSU sports?

**A.**My favorite sport at Middle Tennessee is football. The team is improving year after year, especially with Brent Stockstill at quarterback. I feel we have several exciting years ahead of us. I am a fan of the new scheduling and the emphasis on bringing teams like Vanderbilt to our stadium to play. I also like attending the men's and women's basketball games. Both are very competitive and exciting to watch.

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

**A.**I have a few great memories of MTSU sports: the 1988 NIT when the men's basketball team defeated Tennessee and Georgia in consecutive games; the OVC football championships we won while I was a student. Probably the best memories are coming back for the ballgames and especially homecoming to see the old friends I attended college with.

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

**A.**When we attended the game in Tuscaloosa this season.

**Q.**How did you first get involved with the Blue Raider Athletic Association?

**A.**I got involved through friends and business associates in Murfreesboro. I have become more involved since my niece, Leigh Ann Lamb, has been working for the BRAA. She is a great ambassador for Blue Raider Athletics and the University in general.

**Q.**What is your favorite place to eat?

**A.**Demos' restaurant in Murfreesboro. I have been a regular for 20 years.

**Q.**What's your favorite hobby?

**A.**Going to the lake. Center Hill and Percy Priest are our favorite places.

**Q.**What's your favorite TV show?

**A.***Big Bang Theory*

**Q.**Tell us about your most memorable trip.

**A.**Disney World with the kids. Always a great trip!! **RR**

# trueBLUE



## BATTERERY

For the first time in Major League Baseball history, two former Blue Raider players form a pitcher-catcher combination

by Tony Stinnett

When **Ken Roberts**, who pitched for the Blue Raiders from 2007 through 2010, took the mound for the Colorado Rockies on May 3, 2015, in San Diego, it had been 13 years since a former Middle Tennessee baseball player made a pitching debut in a Major League Baseball (MLB) game.

With the Rockies down 8 to 5 to the hometown Padres, Roberts was summoned from the visitor's bullpen at Petco Park to begin the bottom of the eighth inning against switch-hitter Yangervis Solarte.

Roberts was unfazed by the moment, tossing a scoreless frame. What made it even more special for Blue Raiders fans, however, is that former MT star catcher **Michael McKenry** (2004–06) was behind the plate for Roberts's debut.

McKenry's presence no doubt created a calming sense of familiarity for Roberts, whose first-pitch changeup crossed the plate for a strike. And with that single pitch, the two former MT standouts forever etched themselves into Blue Raider history as the first pair of former MT players to comprise an MLB battery.

A 27-year-old native of Murfreesboro, Roberts never gave up on his dream of becoming a big league player. Close observers say Roberts is the perfect example of hard work paying off. Coming out of high school, Roberts drew little interest from college programs and pitched a mere seven innings as a freshman with MT.

He kept working, though, and wound up starting and picking up the win against Vanderbilt in MT's last NCAA Regional victory back in 2009. Roberts was later selected by the Rockies in the 25th round of the 2010 MLB Amateur Draft following his senior season. It was the same draft that saw current big league stars including Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Matt Harvey, and Chris Sale selected in the first round.

Those players rose quickly to "the show," but Roberts had a little more work to do. In the minors, Roberts was a steady performer, achieving an overall record of 21–8 and a 2.26 ERA. He started the 2015 season with the Albuquerque Isotopes, his first stop at the Triple-A level, and required just six appearances before getting his MLB call-up.

Roberts is the twelfth Blue Raider to reach the big leagues. He recently took some time out for a brief Q&A session with GoBlueRaiders.com.

**Q: What was the most memorable part for you after getting the good news and making your MLB debut?**

**Roberts:** The best part was having my wife and parents being a part of it. They've made all the sacrifices for me so I could chase this dream. My wife, Katie, was there when I got the call, and she was able to fly out with me to San Diego. I had her look up flights for my parents, and they were able to make it also. It was amazing to see them after the game and get a picture on the field.

**Q: Describe the thoughts running through your mind as you entered your first MLB game.**

**Roberts:** As I was running out there, I was looking at the grass and thinking "Don't look up, don't look up." I knew I'd get overwhelmed if I looked up and saw how big the stadium was. When I got to the mound, the first person I saw was McKenry there, so that was comforting to see a familiar face. He stayed back by the plate and it was just "go time." I was really able to enjoy the moment.

**Q: What does it mean to you personally to reach the big leagues as a former Blue Raider?**

**Roberts:** It's awesome. I grew up going to a ton of Blue Raider games with my dad, and it's where I always wanted to go, so it's special to be able to represent MTSU. My goal is to be someone that kids can look up to and to be someone that people have seen go the whole way and seen what it takes to get there and believe that they can do it, too. My freshman year, I threw seven innings, and I wasn't very good; but the coaches just helped me get better every day, especially Coach [Jim] McGuire.

**Q: What is your advice to the current Blue Raiders and any other baseball players reading your story?**

**Roberts:** Just try to get better every day. I know those guys don't ever give up. I like to follow them, and they've had a great season. They have a desire to win, and my advice is to just focus on getting better as a team. Find ways to get better every single day, whether it's putting in some extra work or picking the brains of coaches and teammates. **RR**



# CATCHING UP WITH BRYANT MITCHELL

By Jared Hastings

BASKETBALL



**B**ryant Mitchell was one of the toughest, hardest-working players on the Blue Raider basketball squad from 2000 to 2003. The 6-foot-7-inch forward fought through knee injuries and played in 84 games. Despite constant pain, Mitchell managed to lead the team in rebounding as a sophomore and was an integral part of Middle Tennessee's run to the 2003 Sun Belt Conference Tournament championship game. Now, more than a decade later, the Lawrenceburg native is still using that toughness to serve the Murfreesboro community.

*Raider Review* recently sat down with Mitchell for a brief Q&A session.

**Q** Catch Blue Raider fans up on how things are going for you and what you have been doing of late.

**A** After I graduated from MTSU, about four or five months later, I went to work for the Murfreesboro Police Department. I've been there about 11 years, the last five as a detective. I just really enjoy the work and serving the community and doing it in a nice town like Murfreesboro.

**Q** What was it about being a police office that intrigued you and made you want to pursue that as a career?

**A** I always wanted to get into criminal justice. I knew a lot of great police officers that influenced me and made me want to go in that direction.

**Q** Blue Raider fans remember you for your toughness, both on the court and as it related to fighting through injuries to play. How much pride does that give you to hear that?

**A** It means a lot to be remembered for that. I got hurt the summer of my sophomore year, and things just never really went the way they were supposed to after that. But I tried to be out there every day in practice and every day in games just doing everything I could. It was tough playing through the knee injuries, but that's just how I was.

**Q** As a senior, you were part of a team that beat Western Kentucky for the first time in more than 20 years. That team also reached the Sun Belt Conference championship game for the first time. What was that experience like?

**A** My first two years, we had good players, but we just didn't have a lot of teamwork. Then, when Coach Kermit Davis came in, he kind of instilled that in us. We were all friends, and we were all family, and we played like it. So to be able to come out that year and beat Western Kentucky and play for a conference championship, that's exactly what we wanted. It was a great feeling. **RR**



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# CATCHING UP WITH MARVIN COLLIER

By Jared Hastings

**F**ew players in Middle Tennessee football history enjoyed the on-field success that Marvin Collier did. As a four-year starter at quarterback, Collier was the field general for arguably the greatest team in Blue Raider history. As a freshman, Collier helped lead the 1985 squad to a perfect regular-season record and a number-one national ranking. Named the 1985 Ohio Valley Conference offensive player of the year, Collier helped guide Middle Tennessee to 30 victories over his career, and led the team in total offense for four consecutive years.

*Raider Review* recently sat down with Collier for a brief Q&A session.



**Q** Since graduation, you have remained in Murfreesboro and made your home and life here.

What about Murfreesboro enticed you to make your home here?

**A** It was a job offer, really. I had the opportunity right after graduation to start working here in Murfreesboro, and it was a good opportunity. I've been here ever since.

**Q** What is your profession, and how did you get into it?

**A** I graduated in December of 1988 and started working at State Farm Insurance the next month. It all kind of worked out well. My wife worked for State Farm until 2000 before she went back to school. Now she's a schoolteacher.

**Q** What are your fondest memories of your time as a Blue Raider?

I don't know if I can pick one. Each season had its own set of memories, and you just look back fondly on each of those. It didn't really matter what the record was because each team was fun. Even in 1984 when I redshirted, I still loved that experience, just getting to go on the bus rides and be part of the team. So it's really hard for me to pick just one memory.

**Q** The 1985 team was honored earlier this season. What was it like seeing your former teammates and reliving that incredible campaign?

**A** It was a lot of fun because those guys are some of your best friends. Some of them you don't see often and to just be able to get together will be great. That was a really good team with a lot of great memories.

**Q** Do you still stay in contact with some of your teammates?

**A** Yes. I've got friends from the team all over. There are some in Illinois, North Carolina, and Tennessee. There's even a couple that also work for State Farm—Mike Pittman and Dejuan Buford. But it wasn't just football players. It was basketball players, and some from the fraternity organizations. It was a smaller campus back then, so we all sort of hung out. Once you get past the records and the games, it's all about friendships. **RR**



## **John Ampomah**

**Finished runner-up at the 2015 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the javelin.**

**Earned first-team All-American honors for his performance at the 2015 NCAA Championships.**

**Won the javelin at the 2015 Conference USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.**

**Set the Middle Tennessee javelin record with his 267-7 throw at the Penn Relays, while also capturing first place.**

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## Student-Athletes: In Their Own Words

"I am proud to be a part of a school that is so exemplary, and receiving a degree from here is a reward. When it boils down to it, financial support is the reason I am able to attend MTSU."

*John Ampomah*  
Senior | Track and Field



# Raider Roundup

## Honorary Captain

For Middle Tennessee's opening conference game against Charlotte on Sept. 19, the Blue Raiders made Colton Sheets an honorary captain. September was Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and Colton, who spent the previous six months in Seattle receiving treatment, was also recognized as the Culver's Kickoff Kid of the Game.



## University Unveils Statue of Donnelly

Before Middle Tennessee's Homecoming game against Vanderbilt on October 3, a statue of James "Boots" Donnelly was unveiled on the front lawn of the Emmett and Rose Kennon Sports Hall of Fame. Donnelly was a player on the football team in the early '60s, then became head football coach in 1979 and held that position until 1998. Donnelly then spent the next two years as director of community relations in the Athletic Department before being selected by former president James Walker to take over as interim athletic director. Donnelly was later named full-time athletic director in 2002.



James "Boots" Donnelly statue

As head coach of the Blue Raiders, Donnelly had an overall record of 140-87-1, making

him the 8th-most-successful head coach in NCAA Division I-AA history at the time.



Emmett and Rose Kennon Sports Hall of Fame



James "Boots" Donnelly and Don Thomas

## New Coaches on Board

Middle Tennessee recently welcomed two new head coaches to the program: **Brennan Webb** and **Charlie Ramsay**. Webb is the new men's golf coach, and Ramsay has taken over the women's tennis program.



Brennan Webb

Webb, who replaced long-time coach Whit Turnbow, made his way to Murfreesboro after three years at Georgia Tech. He helped guide Tech to the ACC Championship in 2014 and 2015 and to the match play bracket of the NCAA Championship both of his years with the Yellow Jackets. During his time at Tech, Webb coached Ollie Schneiderjans, Anders Albertson, and Seth Reeves, who won seven All-American honors. Webb and his wife, Carrie, have two daughters, Nalla and Skye.

A native of Ontario, Webb represented Canada in several international amateur tournaments, including appearances in the U.S., British, Canadian, and Western amateur championships. He also played for Canada in the Junior World's Championship. Webb has been a part-time PGA Tour caddy for Garrett Willis, John Huston, and Robert Damron and was owner-operator of DSP Golf Academy at the South Muskoka Golf and Country Club in his hometown of Bracebridge, Ontario, from 1998 to 2001.



Charlie Ramsay

Ramsay, who grew up following Middle Tennessee's tennis programs as an avid player and resident of Murfreesboro, brings a wealth of knowledge as a former player and coach. He previously served as an assistant tennis coach and USPTA Certified Teaching Professional at McCallie School in Chattanooga, where he led the program to three state semifinal appearances and one state final appearance in four years. He also coached two players—Cody Gubin (2015) and Daniel Pare (2013)—who earned "Best of the Prep" awards from the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*.

Ramsay played collegiate tennis at Memphis, where he was captain for the 2009–10 season. He won the 2007 Southern Intercollegiate Doubles Tournament with teammate Amrit Narisamin. Ramsay played prep tennis at McCallie School, where he lettered four years and earned "Best of the Prep" honors all four years.

Ramsay is married to the former Amanda Lee Brown. They have a 19-month-old daughter, Addison Lee.

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## Peers Makes U.S. Open Finals

Former Blue Raider men's tennis player **John Peers** has had quite an impressive 2015 season competing on the ATP World Tour. Peers and doubles partner Jamie Murray made it all the way to center court at the finals of Wimbledon in July and also reached the championship of the U.S. Open in September. The success in majors has moved the tandem up in the rankings and the duo now sits at No. 7 in the world. Peers played at MT for three seasons from 2007-10 before turning pro in 2011.



## Millard Wins, Gains Status On Web.com Tour

After sleeping on the 36- and 54-hole leads, former Blue Raider all-american **Jason Millard** posted a final-round 68 and outlasted Ryan Williams of Vancouver, British Columbia, in a playoff to win the Freedom 55 Financial Championship on Sept. 20, the final event on the 2015 Mackenzie Tour—PGA TOUR Canada schedule. With the win and a first-place check of \$36,000, Millard jumped from No. 30 to No. 5 in the final Order of Merit to earn status on the Web.com Tour for the 2016 season.

Millard, who had missed three of four cuts heading into the week, rebounded nicely with four rounds in the 60s, including a second-round 7-under-par 63. Millard and Williams went back and forth most of the final round, with the two drawing even at 15-under-par after a Williams bogey on the 17th hole. After both made pars on the 18th hole in regulation, the duo played two sudden-death playoff holes, both on No. 18. After matching pars on the first hole, Millard converted a two-putt par from 15 feet, while Williams was unable to get up and down from the front of the green, missing a par putt from 10 feet that would have extended the playoff.



## Raiders, Tigers, Football!

Middle Tennessee has agreed on a three-game football contract with Missouri that will begin in 2016. The Blue Raiders will travel to Columbia next season to face the Tigers on Oct. 22 before hosting the two-time SEC East Division champs at Floyd Stadium on Sept. 17, 2022. Middle Tennessee will make another trip to Columbia on Sept. 9, 2023. The Tigers will be the third SEC team to play in Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders hosted Mississippi State in 2009 and Vanderbilt this season, and will host them again in 2017. MT also has a home game with Duke in 2019. **RR**

# RAIDERS IN



Photo by  
St. Louis Rams

## Football

Benny Cunningham (2009-12)	NFL	St. Louis Rams
Kenneth Gilstrap (2009-13)	AFL	New Orleans Voo Doo
Rod Issac (2007-10)	AFL	Tampa Bay Storm
Jeremy Kellem (2007-10)	AFL	Arizona Rattlers
Logan Kilgore (2010-2013)	CFL	Toronto Argonauts
Jamari Lattimore (2008-10)	NFL	New York Jets
Keon Raymond (2004-05)	CFL	Calgary Stampeders
Sammy Seamster (2009-13)	NFL	New Orleans Saints
Jimmy Staten (2010-13)	NFL	Seattle Seahawks
Alex Suber (2005-09)	CFL	Saskatchewan Roughriders
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 (2010-2012)	Independent	Lake Erie
Matt Blackham (2014)	A	New York Mets
Bryce Brentz (2008-2010)	AAA	Boston Red Sox
Zac Curtis (2013-2014)	A	Arizona Diamondbacks
Nathan Foriest (2012-2015)	Rookie	San Diego Padres
Jonathan Frebis (2012-2015)	Rookie	Chicago White Sox
Andy Haines	AAA	Miami Marlins (Manager)
Ronnie Jebavy (2015)	A	San Francisco Giants
Michael McKenry (2004-2006)	MLB	Colorado Rockies
Paul Mittura (2010-2014)	Independent	Frontier Greys
Jeremy Owens (1996-1998)	Independent	Southern Maryland Blue Crabs (OF/Coach)
Kenneth Roberts (2007-2010)	MLB	Colorado Rockies
Heath Slatton (2013-2015)	Rookie	San Francisco Giants
Ryan Stephens (2011-14)	A	Colorado Rockies



Photo by Craig Mitchell/dyer/  
Hillsboro Hops

## 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             |

## Men's Tennis

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| John Peers (2008-10)         | ATP Doubles #7  |
| Andreas Siljeström (2004-07) | ATP Doubles #98 |



## Track and Field

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



Photo by Bob Donnan, USA Today Sports

## 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

## DECEMBER 2015

- 2** Men's Basketball vs. VCU, Murfreesboro
- 5** Men's Basketball vs. South Alabama, Murfreesboro
- 12** Men's Basketball vs. Auburn (Bridgestone Arena), Nashville
- 13** Women's Basketball vs. Kentucky, Murfreesboro
- 17** Women's Basketball vs. Missouri State, Murfreesboro
- 17** Men's Basketball vs. Belmont, Murfreesboro
- 20** Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee Tech, Murfreesboro
- 30** Men's Basketball vs. Trevecca, Murfreesboro

## JANUARY 2016

- 3** Women's Basketball vs. UAB, Murfreesboro
- 7** Men's Basketball vs. UTEP, Murfreesboro
- 9** Men's Basketball vs. UTSA, Murfreesboro
- 14** Women's Basketball vs. Charlotte, Murfreesboro
- 15** Women's Tennis vs. Belmont, Murfreesboro
- 16** Women's Basketball vs. Old Dominion, Murfreesboro
- 16** Men's Tennis vs. Chattanooga, Murfreesboro
- 17** Women's Tennis vs. Kennesaw State, Murfreesboro
- 18** Men's Tennis vs. Vanderbilt, Murfreesboro
- 21** Men's Basketball vs. North Texas, Murfreesboro
- 23** Men's Basketball vs. Rice, Murfreesboro
- 23** Men's Tennis vs. Xavier and Murray State, Murfreesboro
- 28** Women's Basketball vs. Marshall, Murfreesboro
- 30** Women's Basketball vs. Western Kentucky, Murfreesboro

## FEBRUARY 2016

- 3** Men's Tennis vs. Louisville, Murfreesboro
- 4** Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic, Murfreesboro
- 4** Women's Tennis vs. Chattanooga, Murfreesboro
- 5** Women's Tennis vs. Murray State, Murfreesboro
- 6** Men's Basketball vs. Florida International, Murfreesboro
- 11** Women's Basketball vs. Louisiana Tech, Murfreesboro
- 13** Women's Basketball vs. Southern Miss, Murfreesboro
- 14** Men's Tennis vs. Iowa and Alabama A&M, Murfreesboro
- 19** Women's Tennis vs. UT-Martin, Murfreesboro
- 20** Men's Tennis vs. ETSU, Illinois State and Morehead State, Murfreesboro
- 21** Men's Basketball vs. UAB, Murfreesboro
- 25** Men's Basketball vs. Western Kentucky, Murfreesboro
- 27** Men's Basketball vs. Marshall, Murfreesboro
- 27** Men's Tennis vs. Columbia and Tennessee State, Murfreesboro

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