

**THURSDAY**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2004

45  58

Rain

**Lady Raiders  
make appearance  
in WNIT**

page 5

**Do You  
TRUST  
this  
band?**



in [flash]

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**SIDELINES**

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Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 36

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**Governor announces TennCare's demise**

By Nick Fowler  
State and Local Editor

Gov. Phil Bredesen announced the dissolution of TennCare at a press conference on Wednesday. The state will return to a Medicaid based program to provide health insurance for the poor and uninsured, which is expected to leave 430,000 Tennesseans without healthcare.

"While we are beginning today the process of returning

to traditional Medicaid it is certainly not irreversible if some agreement were to be reached in the next seven days," the governor said at his press conference.

The governor said he received a letter from Gordon Bonnyman, executive director of the Tennessee Justice Center, requesting that the state postpone its decision to end TennCare for one more week, while they continue negotiations. Bonnyman represents a group of enrollees who have

sued the state to block Bredesen's TennCare reforms.

"The reason that these lawsuits and consent decrees have taken on such importance," Bredesen explained, "is that many of their provisions specifically gut our ability to use the management techniques, such as prior authorizations for services, that other states and commercial plans today routinely use to control costs and, frankly, to improve care in these programs."

Economist and Weatherford Chair of Finance at MTSU, William F. Ford, said that the end of TennCare marked a sad day in Tennessee.

"Unfortunately a coalition of ... badly informed obstructionists led by Mr. Bonnyman and supported by [U.S. District Judge John] Nixon undermined all of the governor's efforts to reform the program with legal actions that were very detrimental to his plan," Ford said. "It's a tragedy that the

Bonnyman/Nixon alliance led the governor to this decision," Ford said. "Unless they back off and allow him to enact reasonable reforms, TennCare is dead."

Bonnyman responded to the governor's announcement on the Tennessee Justice Center Web site.

"The proposals made by the state will cost Tennessee's economy \$2 billion in federal funds each year and will damage a health care system on which all Tennesseans must rely,"

Bonnyman wrote. "There are better, safer, proven ways to save money, such as reducing overpayments to the HMOs and identifying the over-prescribing of costly drugs."

TennCare is a \$7.8 billion program, and if left unchanged would cost the state an additional \$650 million to sustain it during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, according to the governor's office. That amount is \$200

See **TennCare**, 3

**Wheelchair seating limited at home games**

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

Several students in wheelchairs at MTSU were upset over wheelchair access at Floyd Stadium and what they see as unfair seating practices.

"We're not being offered the same thing as everybody else," said Kevin Green, who is a member of the MTSU wheelchair tennis team.

Students in wheelchairs are allowed to sit at the front of the student section at football games, but often fans are walking to and from their seats in the same area.

Additionally, the guardrail that separates the fans from the field is at eye level for many wheelchair users.

"If I got close to the railing, I was either peeping over the railing or looking under the railing to look at the football game," senior mass communication major John Taylor said.

Taylor added that he has not attended a football game this season because of seating problems.

When approached about the complaints, Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Glenn said he was unaware of the problem. Glenn noted that students in wheelchairs have a designated area on the upper level of the stadium as well.

Green, however, said those designated seats are in some ways worse than those in the student section.

"They're behind the [north] end zone," Green said. "You've seen where no one sits because they're not very good seats? Yeah, that's them."

Green said he has been told in the past that he can't sit on the home side of Floyd Stadium "because it's a fire hazard."

Michael Paul, the president of the MTSU wheelchair sports club, said that the football stadium isn't the only athletic venue on campus that needs to be examined.

"Our tennis courts on campus aren't



Photo Illustration by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer  
John Taylor is one of the many disabled students on campus who doesn't attend football games because he finds the seating inconvenient.

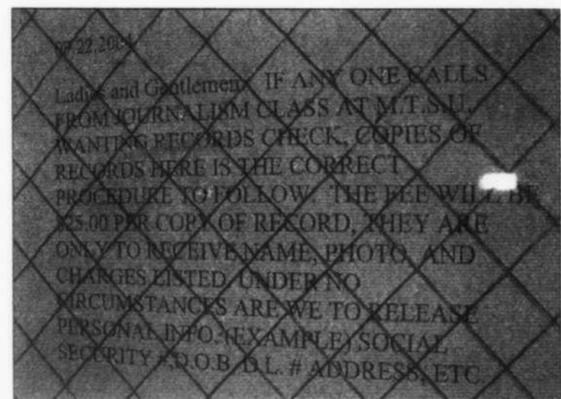


Photo by Kristin Hall | Staff Photographer

This sign was posted at the Sheriff's Department.

**Sheriff overcharges journalism students**

Chief Deputy calls situation "misunderstanding"

By Jason Cox  
Editor in Chief

Until recently, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department has been attempting to charge some MTSU journalism students \$25 for single copies of reports - \$20 more than the \$5 normally charged.

A sign dated Sept. 22, 2004 and clearly posted until last week in the lobby of the sheriff's department at 940 New Salem Road in Murfreesboro instructed deputies to specifically charge MTSU journalism students \$25 per copy of a report.

The sign read, in part, "If any one calls from journalism class at M.T.S.U. wanting records check ... The fee will be \$25 per record."

After photos of the sign were

taken Monday, Nov. 1, a *Sidelines* employee - who is not a member of the news staff - posing as a journalism student in need of a report for a class went to the department that Thursday. He was charged only \$5 for the report, an inflated report of a recent fight involving an MTSU basketball player.

The sign was gone altogether by Monday.

Virgil Gammon, chief deputy of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, admitted that it was possible that someone had been charged that amount, but said it was a miscommunication and that Sheriff Truman Jones said that the department should "absolutely not" charge \$25 per report.

"There was a misunderstanding up front on that," Gammon said, explaining that the memo was supposed to instruct deputies to charge a

See **Overcharges**, 2

**Students still feel safe on campus**

By Casey Phillips  
Staff Writer

Students residing on campus responded to news of last week's alleged assault with little change in their feelings of security on campus.

The incident, which occurred on the afternoon of Oct. 31, involved the alleged assault of a female student living in Corlew Hall by Derrick J. Hairston, 19.

Hairston's presence on a female floor of the dormitory indicated a successful circumvention of the security measures designed to prevent improper access to the dorm.

Despite the implications that the dormitories' inadequate security measures are inadequate, students continue to feel safe living on campus.

"I've never felt unsafe in the dorms, and I still feel safe," said freshman elementary education

major Jaclyn Gross. "The incident didn't change my mind [on the issue of safety]."

Gross lives in Corlew Hall. Information about the assault has not spread throughout the student body as quickly as might be expected. Many students, including residents living in Corlew Hall, were unaware that the assault had even taken place.

"I didn't know anything about the assault," freshman physical therapy major Daniel Christian said. "I'm not here very much, so I guess that's why."

Local news sources have been providing information about the assault as it is released during the continuing police investigation. As a result, some students had only become aware of the event through the media.

"[I've heard] little pieces about the stabbing," freshman nursing major and Smith Hall

resident Dedrick Mitchell said. "It was on the news that somebody got stabbed."

Among those who did know about the incident, most knew only fragments of what happened or had learned about the incident second- or even third-hand.

"My friend called me after her mom heard it on the radio," freshman nursing major and Corlew resident Michele Stark said.

Once informed of the incident, however, most students expressed a continuing confidence in the safety of the residence halls.

"I've felt safe, and I still feel safe," Christian said. "I've never had any problems [in the dorms], and everyone seems to get along."

The majority of students continue to believe that the level

See **Safety**, 2

**'Images from Appalachia'**

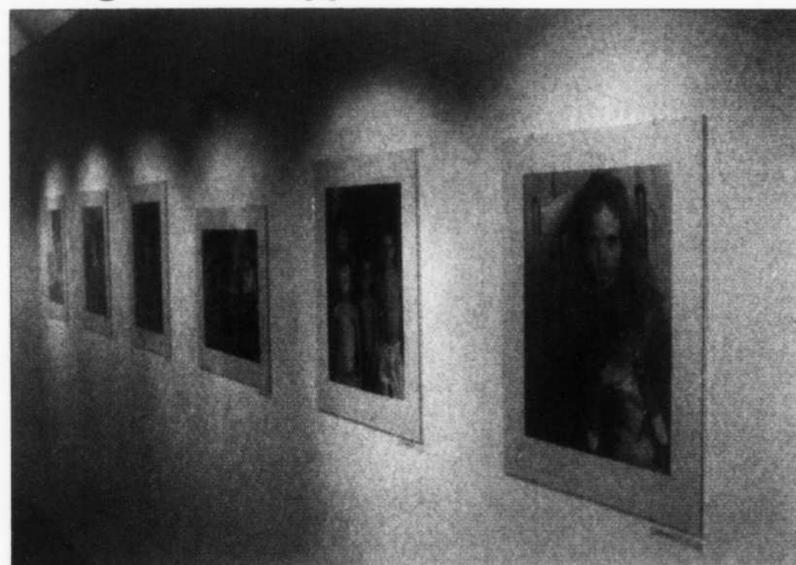


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Shelby Lee Adams' photography exhibit "Images from Appalachia" is on display in the James E. Walker Library through Dec. 9.



This week's poll question at  
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you think Destination  
Rutherford is a good idea?

# AIDS quilt coming to campus

By Alex Miller  
Staff Writer

Portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building on Saturday, Nov. 13, between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. The quilt is the centerpiece of a day of activities that the Student Government Association hopes will raise money for AIDS charities.

"People really don't think about AIDS, how it affects them," Chastity Wilson said. Wilson, an at-large student senator, heads the SGA's AIDS Quilt committee that is bringing the quilt to campus for the third consecutive year.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is not so much a single quilt as it is a composite of thousands of quilts. The smallest unit of the quilt is the panel, a 3-by-6-foot rectangle of fabric decorated with the name of an AIDS victim.

Most panels are a tribute to one person who has died of AIDS, and the entire quilt is composed of more than 45,000 of these tributes.

Approximately 82,800 names are on the quilt, a number representing 17.5 percent of all U.S. AIDS deaths, according to the NAMES Project Foundation, the organization devoted to preserving the quilt.

Groups of eight similar panels are sewn into 12-foot quilts known as blocks.

Arrangements of these blocks are the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Currently there are more than 5,600 blocks, but the number grows every year.

The quilt is huge. It weighs 54 tons, and if the panels were arranged side by side, the quilt would stretch for 51.5 miles. It is the largest community arts project in the world.

Because of its enormous size, the entire quilt has not been displayed since 1996. At that time, its 38,000 panels, arranged on the National Mall, stretched for a mile between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. Since then, it has only gotten bigger.

Because it is rarely seen in its entirety, the NAMES Project displays it piecemeal at dozens of locations every year. Eighty panels will be exhibited at MTSU.

In addition to the quilt, Wilson and her committee will host several events on Saturday to make people aware of HIV and earn money for the NAMES Project and Nashville CARES, an organization that offers HIV-prevention education and services for people who are infected with the virus.

The Wacky Olympics will take place at 11 a.m. on the

## AIDS Quilt events

### Saturday, Nov. 13

<p><b>9 a.m. - 9 p.m.</b> Open viewing of the quilt in the James Union Building</p> <p><b>11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b> Wacky Olympics on the Keathley University Center knoll with free food and prizes</p>	<p><b>6 - 8 p.m.</b> Candlelight vigil from the KUC knoll to the JUB</p> <p><b>10 p.m. - 2 a.m.</b> Party for a Cure at the Sigma Nu fraternity house. There will be live entertainment. Donations welcome.</p>
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Knoll in front of the Keathley University Center. For an entry fee of \$15, teams can compete in events reminiscent of the gross out show "Fear Factor."

Last year, competitors had to eat baby food and fish Reese's Pieces out of a pile of flour using only their teeth.

"It's just fun things to do," Wilson said.

A candlelight vigil will be held on the knoll at 6 p.m.

Hosting the quilt is a lot of work, but for Wilson it's a worthwhile endeavor. She was inspired to chair the AIDS Quilt committee by her Alpha Delta Pi sorority sister and fellow SGA member Amanda Newman. Three years ago, Newman felt moved when she saw the AIDS Memorial Quilt on TV. She

spearheaded the effort to bring it to the university for the first time. Since then, the SGA has adopted the quilt as its official philanthropy.

"This year," Wilson said, "I'm going to do this because it is such an amazing, amazing cause."

She wants students to learn more about the virus and "to be more aware of what is going on around you." Not only is HIV on the rise globally, she said, Memphis and Nashville have been particularly hard hit.

Shelby and Davidson counties have seen thousands more HIV cases than any other counties in the state.

"Your actions have consequences," Wilson said. ♦

# Last home game lacks entertainment

By Matt Anderson  
Staff Writer

Attendance at Saturday's home football game against Louisiana-Monroe will have to hit 22,904 for the Blue Raiders to avoid entering a 10-year period that could threaten the team's Division I-A status.

This time, there will be no rappers or rock stars to boost attendance.

All Division I-A teams must meet an average attendance of 15,000, according to NCAA regulations.

If the attendance isn't met, the Blue Raiders will be ineligible for a bowl game, even if they win the Sun Belt Conference.

Two more years without meeting the attendance requirement in a 10-year period, and the Blue Raiders' Division I-A status will be revoked.

Will there be enough fans to avoid it?

"I left my crystal ball in my other suit," Robert Glenn, vice president of student affairs said.

Advance ticket sales were slightly less than 1,000 Wednesday afternoon, but those figures are not indicative of attendance.

"Even when we're busy, the majority of ticket sales are at the gate," said John Brooks, the ticket office director.

For the Oct. 23 home game against Idaho, MTSU spent about \$82,000 to bring in Big Boi, half of the Grammy-winning hip-hop duo Outkast. Student attendance was around 3,000.

School officials originally hinted at another entertainer — possibly Lenny Kravitz — at the last home game.

Glenn said the reaction to the Big Boi appearance affected the decision not to have another big-name entertainer.

"Even if we drew 30,000 people, what do you think the result would be?" Glenn said. "Have you seen the editorials, the letters to the editor?"

Gene Fitch, dean of student life, echoed Glenn's assessment.

"The administration got beat up over bringing that last one, [and] the money that was involved," Fitch said. "In my opinion, quite frankly, they didn't want to go through that again. We thought we were doing what our students wanted."

Both Glenn and Fitch cited

the rain as a factor in depressing attendance for the Big Boi performance. At this point, no one is ruling out another entertainer for next year.

"I would think about having another performer in the stadium, but we would look for ways to maximize the impact, looking for ways to have a backup plan for rain," Glenn said.

"I think it was a reasonable gamble to take," he said. "We could have gone with entertainers that appealed to an older demographic, but we chose an entertainer that would appeal directly to our students."

High-profile entertainers generate a lot of buzz, but the administration has done other things to boost attendance. Fitch worked with a committee of students, marching band members, alumni and representatives of Aramark last spring to look at ways to boost attendance.

The focus was on building traditions.

"That's what we kept hearing over and over — we don't have a place," Fitch said. "We don't have things to do like other schools have."

One major success has been

the expansion of pre-game activities, Fitch said.

In Walnut Grove, students and people from the community can tailgate and enjoy live bands before the games.

A strong football program impacts more than athletics, he pointed out.

"Our major emphasis is on academics, but it helps to have quality athletic programs to back it up," Fitch said. "Students want something to do, and it just adds to the sense of ownership that they have over the school. It leads to involvement as alums and, of course, alumni involvement has to do with alumni dollars."

"There will be a sense of urgency if we don't make it this time around, which could still happen," he said.

"It's going to be a long and drawn-out process," Glenn said. "I don't think there's going to be any quick turnaround ... I think if we can be persistent and we can be patient and do the things we know will work ... if we can give people an opportunity to come out and enjoy themselves, then I think we'll do better." ♦

# Overcharges: Law state 'reasonable' cost

Continued from 1

maximum of \$25, not that amount per report.

Normally, Gammon said, the price is \$5 per report, with victims of a crime getting that particular report for free.

"It wasn't supposed to be [that high]," Gammon said. "We don't ever charge \$25 a report for anything."

However, at least one MTSU journalism student said deputies attempted to charge him the full \$25.

Matt Anderson, a senior mass communications major and a *Sidelines* reporter, went to the department in middle to late September for journalism professor (and *Sidelines* adviser) Wendell Rawls' Investigative Reporting class.

He was seeking an arrest

report on a lady named Teresa L. Rivera.

"I told them it was for a class project," Anderson said.

He said the lady behind the counter was about to give him the report when she spotted a note from Col. Edward Farmer — whom Anderson had contacted earlier — that instructed the front desk to charge Anderson specifically \$25 for the report.

Farmer is the director of patrol and investigative services for the RCSO, who also serves as the department's legal counsel. Farmer did not return repeated calls for comment.

"I left [because] they told me I had to pay in cash. I didn't have the cash on me," Anderson said.

Anderson said he then went to the Rutherford County Criminal Court Clerk's office,

where he was able to get a copy of the same information for 50 cents.

However, Anderson said his experience with the RCSO actually helped him learn.

"They didn't impede [my work]," Anderson said. "They helped because they showed me what a battle it is to get public records."

While there is no law specifically stating the amount a department may charge for a particular report, Tennessee Code Annotated 10-7-507, a section of Tennessee's Public Records Law, says that records shall be available "upon the payment of a reasonable charge or fee therefore. Such official is authorized to fix a charge or fee per copy that would reasonably defray the cost of producing and delivering such copy or copies."

# CRIME LOG

Compiled by Melissa Bowman - Associate News Editor

<p><b>Thursday, Nov. 4 - 2:20 p.m.</b> Lytle Street Driving on a suspended license Subject was stopped for a registration violation.</p> <p><b>Thursday, Nov. 4 - 11:50 p.m.</b> Schardt Hall Driving on a suspended license Subject was going the wrong way on a one-way street.</p> <p><b>Friday, Nov. 5 - 5:08 p.m.</b> Sigma Nu fraternity house Vandalism The tailgate was removed from a truck, and there was damage to the vehicle.</p> <p><b>Saturday, Nov. 6 - 1:04 p.m.</b> Baird Lane parking lot Miscellaneous Subject's vehicle had been damaged in a hit-and-run while he was on campus the previous night.</p> <p><b>Saturday, Nov. 6 - 5:16 p.m.</b> James Union Building Accident The subject, who was on campus for the Contest of Champions, broke a panel of glass out of the cafeteria doors.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Nov. 7 - 12:43 a.m.</b> Champion Way DUI first offense Ben Avery, of Trenton, Tenn., was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, violation of implied consent law and underage consumption of alcohol.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Nov. 7 - 2:35 a.m.</b> Greenland Drive at Rutherford Boulevard Subject was driving without a license.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Nov. 7 - 12:38 p.m.</b> MTSU campus Subject reported that she had been raped.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Nov. 7 - 3:22 p.m.</b> Gore Hall Vagrancy Two subjects were issued tres-</p>	<p>pass warnings and were asked to leave campus.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Nov. 7 - 4:57 p.m.</b> Sigma Chi fraternity house Fire There was an overcooked pizza which created a lot of smoke. A supervisory and trouble alarm was sounded. The Murfreesboro Fire Department was notified.</p> <p><b>Monday, Nov. 8 - 11:19 a.m.</b> Visitor's car Leaving the scene of an accident Complainant said her vehicle had been struck by another vehicle.</p> <p><b>Monday, Nov. 8 - 2:06 p.m.</b> Keathley University Center Theft less than \$500 Subject reported a stolen cell phone.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 9 - 4:21 a.m.</b> Judd Hall Vandalism less than \$500 A window in the lobby was broken.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 9 - 1:03 p.m.</b> Rec Center parking lot Leaving the scene of an accident Subject witnessed a hit-and-run involving a burgundy Chevrolet Astro van with a North Carolina license number LNT5313 and a U.S. Army bumper sticker. The driver was a tan-skinned male wearing a black shirt and khaki pants, and he headed north on Blue Raider Drive.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 9 - 2:23 p.m.</b> Rec Center Theft less than \$500 Subject reported a stolen bank card.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 9 - 5:08 p.m.</b> Alumni Memorial Gym Theft more than \$500 A bicycle was stolen.</p>
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To report a crime, call Campus Police at 898-2424.

# Safety: Freedom trumps security

Continued from 1

of security doesn't need to be increased at Corlew. Most students cannot think of a feasible way to make security any tighter than it already is.

"[Corlew] is a very safe building," freshman apparel design major Ashlee Crutchfield said. "I don't think they could make security tighter unless they put officers at every door."

Some students thought increasing the level of security might decrease their freedom and create a sense of confinement.

"I think the level of security is fine," Christian said. "I'm sure they could make it into a jail, but why would you want to live

in a jail? I'm sure people want a certain amount of security, but no one wants to feel locked up."

The belief in the adequacy of current security among students is echoed by Housing and Residential Life Director Sarah Sudak.

"We believe we have secure dorms as it is," Sudak said. "We've had no complaints from students on safety."

Sudak emphasized the need for student cooperation in maintaining security in the residence halls.

"[Security] is a two-way street," Sudak said. "Students have to help by following the correct procedures [to maintain security]." ♦

**Jeffery R. Farmer, D.D.S.**  
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FREE INFORMATION -24/7

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923 E. Lytle Street  
(behind Bell Street Parking Lot)  
**(615) 904-8220**  
<http://www.mtsu.edu/~eesp>

Monday-Thursday 3:30-9:00

**Activities:**  
homework help  
art, science, music, etc. activities  
themed/seasonal projects

special guests  
special activities  
qualified teachers

**Fees:**

\$32.00 weekly first child	\$18.00 weekly additional children
\$3.00 daily first child	\$7.00 daily additional children
\$20.00 registration fee	

## TennCare: Program dead

Continued from 1

million more than the state expects to collect in new revenue.

Healthcare expenditures in Tennessee make up a larger percentage of total expenditures than in any other state.

"The growth of spending on TennCare would destroy any effort to provide more funding for K-12 education and higher education," Ford said.

TennCare provides healthcare for 23 percent of Tennesseans. That adds up to 1.3 million people, 430,000 of

which would lose coverage under Medicaid.

Dismantling TennCare requires a 60-day notification period and federal approval. The governor said the conversion to Medicaid is expected to be complete in mid-2005. The state will begin notifying enrollees in January.

Bredesen's reforms would limit the types and amount of prescription drugs enrollees are eligible to receive, and would also limit the frequency of visits to the doctor for some enrollees. The reforms also include cost-sharing with enrollees. ♦

## National reports ranks Tennessee as third unhealthiest state

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Tennessee dropped two places to 48th in the nation for the health of all its residents, according to a new national report card.

The state was ranked ahead of only Mississippi and Louisiana by the United Health Foundation. Minnesota was ranked No. 1 by the Minnetonka, Minn.-based organization.

The foundation did praise Tennessee for having a high number of residents with health insurance from TennCare, which Gov. Phil Bredesen announced Wednesday that he plans to dissolve.

It also commended the state's prenatal programs with nearly 78 percent of pregnant women receiving adequate care, while finding only 13 percent of Tennesseans lack health insurance.

Health Department spokeswoman Diane Denton said they are working to improve the numbers through the state's health education campaign, "Better Health: It's About Time." The program is designed

to reduce health disparities between whites and minorities and raise public awareness about issues like nutrition and exercise.

"Where we don't do as well is in the choices people make in regard to their lifestyle, and that's affecting the health outcomes," she said. "We're working hard to increase public awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, but it's going to take some time for this to impact the data."

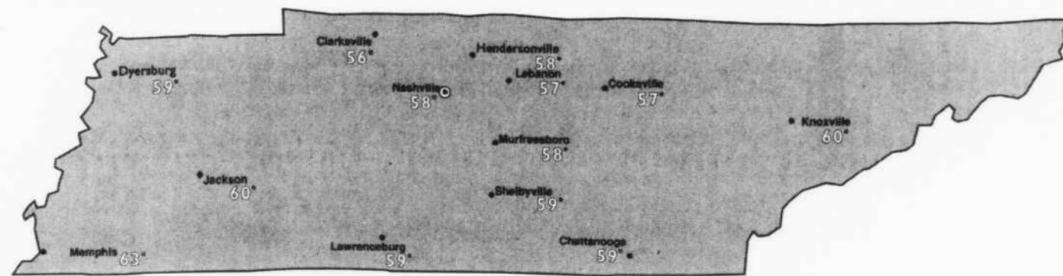
Tennessee has consistently slid down the rankings since 1990, when it was 37th.

"I think, more than anything, it points to the fact that once a community gets in a downward spiral on these health indices, it takes a long while to turn it around, much less improve it," said Tammy Burke, president of the Tennessee Public Health Association. Tennessee was one of the worst states for infant mortality rate, total deaths and cardiovascular disease deaths.

Burke said those figures show just how much individual lifestyle choices impact the state's overall health. ♦

## Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Day	High	Low
Friday	56°	34°
Saturday	54°	33°
Sunday	56°	33°
Monday	58°	37°
Tuesday	59°	42°

## Diebold settles electronic voting lawsuit

By Rachel Konrad  
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Diebold Inc. agreed Wednesday to pay \$2.6 million to settle a lawsuit filed by California alleging that the electronic voting company sold the state and several counties shoddy voting equipment.

Although critics characterized the settlement as a slap on the wrist, Diebold also agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to partially reimburse Alameda, San Diego and other counties for the cost of paper backup ballots, ink and other supplies in last week's election. California's secretary of state banned the use of one type of Diebold machine in May, after problems with the machines disenfranchised an unknown number of voters in the March primary.

Faulty equipment forced at least 6,000 of 316,000 voters in Alameda County, just east of

San Francisco, to use backup paper ballots instead of the paperless voting terminals. In San Diego County, a power surge resulted in hundreds of touch-screens that wouldn't start when the polls opened, forcing election officials to turn voters away from the polls.

According to the settlement, the North Canton, Ohio-based company must also upgrade ballot tabulation software that Los Angeles County and others used Nov. 2. Diebold must also strengthen the security of its paperless voting machines and computer servers and promise never to connect voting systems to outside networks.

"There is no more fundamental right in our democracy than the right to vote and have your vote counted," California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said in a statement. "In making false claims about its equipment, Diebold treated that

right, and the taxpayers who bought its machines, cavalierly."

The original lawsuit was filed a year ago by electronic voting critic Bev Harris and activist Jim March, who characterized the \$2.6 million settlement as "peanuts."

March, a Sacramento whistle blower who filed suit on behalf of California taxpayers, could receive as much as \$75,000 because of the settlement.

But he said the terms don't require Diebold to overhaul its election servers — which have had problems in Washington's King County and elsewhere — to guard them from hackers, software bugs or other failures.

The former computer system administrator was also upset that the state announced the deal so quickly.

Several activist groups, computer scientists and federal researchers are analyzing Nov. 2 election data, looking for evi-

dence of vote rigging or unintentional miscounts in hundreds of counties nationwide that used touch-screen terminals. Results are expected by early December.

"This settlement will shut down a major avenue of investigation before evidence starts trickling in," March said. "It's very premature."

A Diebold executive said the settlement would allow the company to spend more money on improving software and avoid "the distraction and cost of prolonged litigation." Diebold earnings plunged 5 cents per share in the third quarter because of the California litigation, which could cost an additional 1 cent per share in the current quarter.

Diebold shares closed Wednesday at \$53.20, up 64 cents, on the New York Stock Exchange. ♦

## Testimony concludes in evolution sticker trial

By Kristen Wyatt  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — A suburban Atlanta school district under fire for placing evolution disclaimers in biology texts made its case Wednesday, arguing in a federal lawsuit that the stickers were meant to promote tolerance, not to inject religion into science classes.

Cobb County, which is being sued by several parents for the stickers calling evolution "a theory, not a fact," argued the stickers were intended to encourage tolerance and coincided with new teacher policies banning the discussion of religious theories in class.

Testimony concluded Wednesday morning, with final arguments slated for Friday. The case will be decided by U.S. District Judge Clarence Cooper, who will determine whether the disclaimers pasted on the inside covers of high school biology

texts in 2002 violated the constitutional separation of church and state.

The school district called a single witness to make its case Wednesday. High school science supervisor George Stickel testified that religious questions about the origin of man aren't any more common in science classes than they were before the stickers.

"We're there to educate them, not coerce them. Not to roll our eyes at their beliefs," Stickel said. When asked whether religious theories were ever taught in science classes, Stickel answered, "No. Absolutely not."

The stickers were adopted after several thousand parents complained about new biology texts that covered evolution but no alternate theories of the origin of life.

The stickers read, "This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered."

Earlier in the morning, some teachers testified that Cobb's new science approach allowed more discussion of evolution, not less.

"Now we can answer the questions and move on," said eighth-grade science teacher Charmagne Quenan. "I think that's a better way to approach it, rather than just cutting a child off."

The parents suing, though, called the stickers a thinly veiled attempt to cast doubt on evolution for religious reasons, when all other science theories are taught without disclaimers.

"My alarm bells went off and I thought, 'This came from a religious source,'" testified Kathleen Chapman, parent of a high school senior and one of the plaintiffs.

If the school system wanted to promote tolerance, Chapman said, "There are any number of ways they could've done that without going directly to the students and questioning the textbook."

A school board member who was part of the decision to add the disclaimers said the board was just trying to make everyone happy. Curt Johnston testified that rancor over the adoption of the new science books made national news and brought busloads of protesters to board meetings.

"We were trying to see if we could figure out a way to smooth the waters," he said. "We were in the middle of a three-ring circus."

The Cobb County case is just the latest evolution flap in Georgia that has drawn national media attention. Earlier this year, state Superintendent of Education Kathy Cox approved a new science curriculum that removed the word evolution and replaced it with "changes over time." A torrent of complaints from science teachers quickly changed her mind, and the word was restored to the curriculum. ♦

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**Spring 2005**

TOPICS IN WORLD HISTORY: HIST 3070

**Revolution in China**

TR 2:40- 4:05

Peck Hall 214

Instructor: Yuan-ling Chao

The goal of the course is to understand modern China by examining a critical period in her history. We will evaluate this period in Chinese history not only as a time of tremendous political upheaval, but also as a time of intellectual turmoil.

The term "revolution" thus refers not only to political revolutions - such as the 1911 Revolution and the 1949 Communist Revolution - but also to the wrenching intellectual struggles to reconcile tradition with modernity, and the search for China's identity in the world.

**SIDELINES ONLINE**

# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### People in wheelchairs want to see games, too

It seems like everyone is making excuses for not attending home football games now that it's well known that low attendance might cost us our Division I-A status.

While "It's too cold outside," "I don't like football" and "I go home on the weekends" may all be valid excuses for not attending games, wheelchair users have given the best reason we've heard.

People in wheelchairs are given seating choices at Floyd Stadium. They can sit on the first level in an area where the railing is just at eye level, obstructing their view of the game. Or they can sit on the upper level of the stands at the north end zone, in no-man's land.

We're not blaming the university for this problem. It's a little-known fact that the *Sidelines* sports department stumbled upon while polling student to find out exactly why they don't want to go to games.

However, now that we know about it, maybe we should consider making the conditions a little more pleasant for those in wheelchairs at our football games.

It should be noted that Floyd Stadium does meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standard that says the facility has to be wheelchair-accessible.

But besides the possibility of boosting attendance at games (there are hundreds of students in wheelchairs attending MTSU), we should want to be as accommodating as possible so we make everyone feel welcome on our campus.

If we can make the second level of the stadium accessible to wheelchair users by adding a few ramps and taking out a few benches, there is no reason not to do it (especially considering the amount of money the university has spent on attempts at boosting attendance this year).

It would be a wonderful gesture for the community to see that MTSU has gone that extra step to make its fans comfortable.

After all, if we take care of our fans, maybe our fans will take care of us. ◆

## Strong faith key to strong nation

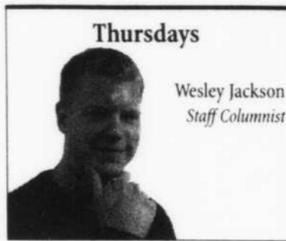
In 410 A.D. an invading barbarian tribe sacked the "invincible" city of Rome. The great capital of the world's empire had not, until then, been defeated in nearly 800 years. The thought of the tragedy was inconceivable. Grief and shock pervaded the Western culture of that early fifth century in the aftermath of the attack.

But the sorrow quickly turned into hateful accusations against the relatively new Christian Church. It became rather popular in that day to blame the Church for the cultural problems and the military failures of the Roman Empire.

St. Augustine was the Catholic Bishop of Hippo, a city in North Africa, during this time. He wrote a very famous book called "The City of God" in response to these accusations.

His argument essentially said that the pagan and Humanistic beliefs and practices of the Romans were doing a fine job of crippling Roman culture by themselves. They didn't need the help of the church to do this.

On the contrary, Augustine



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson  
Staff Columnist

argued that Judeo-Christian values were stabilizing forces for an empire. They brought fresh perspectives on justice, liberty, mercy, and equality — concepts that gave life to a culture.

In the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, as well as our recent elections, I've thought that our times are similar to that of Augustine's. America's been attacked, and we're in the midst of a culture war.

I've heard President George W. Bush blamed for the "theocracy" he is supposedly imposing on the United States — as if somehow his faith were the source of our problems.

Recently I got an e-mail from a friend in Germany who confirmed that the Germans basically hate Bush right now.

Got another e-mail from some folks in France showing a map of the world colored in red and blue as if showing the global election results between Bush and John Kerry.

The entire map was blue (for Kerry supporters), except for the United States, which was red (showing Bush supporters). Another detailed picture of the nation was set next to the global map. It was called the "Jesusland" map.

It's like the United States, or more specifically her Judeo-Christian values, is this uncooperative irritation, this disease in the world community. It's like this country is the odd man out and is blamed for the world's problems.

If we're such a bad nation, why is it that our borders are being flooded? Why is it that the rest of the world wants to live here? If we're so bad, why is it that we've been able to create a country that has enjoyed freedoms virtually unparalleled with any other nation in history?

Alexis de Tocqueville, a Frenchman from an earlier gener-

ation, wrote in his classic study of American culture, "Democracy in America," "Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Like Augustine, de Tocqueville understood that the success of democratic ideals is rooted in the Judeo-Christian heritage. Like it or not, that's America's background check.

Whether or not we all religiously believe the doctrines of the Judeo-Christian world-view is insignificant. It doesn't make sense to condemn that which has made us great.

Before casting rash stones, let's be decent enough to have a bit of self-doubt and historical honesty before we start pulverizing the foundations that give us such a privileged position. ◆

Wesley Jackson is a senior English major and can be reached at wtj2b@mtsu.edu.

## United States collectively immature, easy to mislead

You can thank God that President George W. Bush won. It is the one angle that Michael Moore didn't touch on, and a view no politician would ever express because it would be political suicide. But Bush won because he played the moral and religious card a little better than Sen. John Kerry.

On election night, as the major television networks were streaming the poll results, a couple of things became clear. No matter how many funny shows about homosexuality come on television, the majority of Americans consider homosexuals inferior.

Eleven states and 20 million Americans voted on the gay marriage ban. Even though all 11 are highly progressive states like Mississippi and Utah, a vote on sex sums up the mentality of our nation. And it is a vote on sex, because honestly, people only care about marriage in an idealistic sense. When was the last time you've seen a herd of people protesting a divorce?

The other thing that became clear is that we like war. We must, because we fight lots of them with vague goals in mind. Astonishingly, the overwhelming number of people who don't know why we are fighting support the war anyway.

Even more astonishingly, there are people who disagree with the war in Iraq, but voted for Bush because they believe he is the man to get us out of this mess. In other words, Bush is the shepherd who will be followed no matter how much he fouls up.

It is easy to understand the amount of support he gets when you see him speak of morals. He's not the idiot that many people think that he is. It takes a bit of brilliance to tap into America's moral idealism like Bush has. He knows that as a country we sit at the emotional level of about a 15-year-old kid.

His one-most perfect idea was to latch on to proper Christian ideals, and to show that he is the man to support a religious agenda.

There couldn't be a more perfect group to cater to. It's a massive commu-



Gagflex

Jason Johnson  
Staff Columnist

nity in America, where good and bad are easily defined in a book, and this community congregates regularly to spread the word of the appropriate political agenda. All Bush has to do in return is adhere to the rules of "good" and "bad."

The good things are fighting heathens in the holy land and constantly making references to God and religion. The bad things are abortion and gay marriage. Everything else is up in the air.

If there were ever a way to justify homosexuality under Christian law, gay marriage would be legalized by the end of the week. If there had been an underlying religious agenda in Vietnam, we would probably still be fighting there, and Richard Nixon might just go down as the greatest holy president ever.

The idea of Americans criticizing other nations for being theocratic states is a bit hypocritical. The United States of America is a Christian nation. Forget about asking what the forefathers meant by freedom of religion. You have to be a bit presumptuous to interpret what it means; it's like asking "what would Jesus do?"

Maybe in years to come we will no longer have to "Rock the Vote" in an attempt to trick a nation of children into casting a vote for who will be the leader of their country. Maybe people will make a decision that's not based on a single issue, but that's being presumptuous.

Maybe H.L. Mencken was right when he said that giving every man a vote has no more made men wise and free than Christianity has made them good. ◆

Jason Johnson is a senior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jcj2n@mtsu.edu.

## Hush: we're trying to listen

I'm sure many know the feeling. You're in class trying to listen to a lecture. As you realize that you don't quite get what the teacher is explaining, another student nearby begins to talk to the person he or she is sitting next to.

Now, after trying to listen and grasp what your teacher aren't really trying to be quiet about it.

As you try to force out the noise of whatever it is they can't wait until after class to talk about, you realize that you're talking, and have absolutely no idea what your teacher is even talking about anymore.

So what do you do? Do you lean over and ask the talkers to be quiet, or do you try to ignore them knowing how well this plan has been working for you for the last 20 minutes when you may have caught two sentences out of your teacher's mouth.

I always worry about making an even larger disturbance than the one existing, and continue on trying to listen to the teacher.

But until I have to ask what is so important that it can't wait until after class. We are all adults here. So why do so many want to act like children by talking when they should be listening?

Now maybe those talking already know the material the teacher is covering. They could just not be interested in the class that they are in. Maybe they don't want to be in class, but have the attendance policy to worry about.

So to those of you who are talkers, here is a request from the rest of us: please, shut up. You don't even have to pay attention to the teacher. It wouldn't bother the rest of the class for you to daydream, write or draw. Do whatever you want to pass the time. Just quit talking to the person next to you while the rest of us are trying to learn something.

There isn't a conversation you can have during class that couldn't wait until class is over. If you're scared you'll forget what you wanted to say, make yourself a little reminder.

So before you lean over to the person next to you in class, please, remember that we are adults and the people in the seats around you may be trying to listen to your teacher.

Out of respect — if not for your teacher, then for your fellow students — when you go to class please sit down and, if you can't pretend to listen, be quiet. ◆

Sandi Van Orden is a junior journalism major and can be reached at slv2e@mtsu.edu.



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden  
Staff Columnist

## SIDELINES

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### Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

## One soldier's memories give holiday meaning

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

On the surface, my grandfather is a simple man.

Charlie Applin Sledge has lived in the same white house with the same white-haired lady for nearly 50 years. He always wears a collared shirt and slacks, whether he is changing the oil in his station wagon or the batteries in the remote control.

It wouldn't surprise me if my grandmother starched his pajamas.

But I never really knew my grandfather until I spent a week with my grandparents while my parents were in Las Vegas.

One day that week, my grandfather took me into the living room with a globe under his arm. We sat down on the couch, and he proceeded to trace his three-year service as a communications lineman in the Philippines during

World War II.

I sat in stunned silence. My grandfather had never mentioned the war to me.

"I had a gun, but I never fired it," he said, unprompted. "I'm glad I never had to."

I asked him generic questions about the war, and he told me everything. When I was done, however, he revealed his real reason for talking with me.

"This war we're in now," he said with an almost prayerful sigh, "I'm afraid we're going to be there awhile."

My grandfather said this in March 2003, when Iraq looked more like the Gulf War and less like Vietnam.

I remembered that conversation with my grandfather on Veterans Day last year and gave him a call.

No one answered, so I left a message on his answering machine thanking him for his military service.

That night my grandfather called me back. He sounded grateful for my call, and I told him my reason for it. He began to speak about the war again, but then the phone went silent.

"I never thought I wouldn't come back," he finally said, voice quivering.

Again, my grandfather surprised me. I had never heard him come close to crying, not even when my uncle passed away three years ago. He thanked me again before asking to speak to my father.

As I gave my dad the phone, I realized my grandfather had just reminded me that every person has a story, and that people are often not as simple as they seem.

I will be calling my grandfather again today, but this time, I'll have two reasons to thank him. ◆

Colby Sledge is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu.

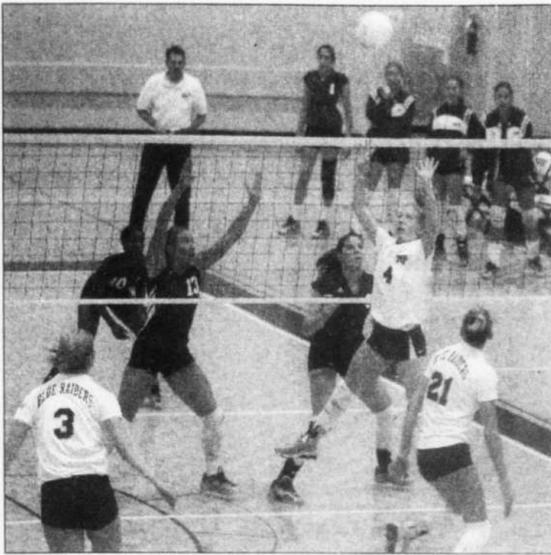
# SPORTS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, November 11, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

## MT volleyball squad closes out home season with victory



By **Jori Rice**  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team defeated Georgia State 3-0 (30-25, 30-11, 30-20) Tuesday night at the Alumni Memorial gym.

"I think the girls played a really good match - this was a team we lost to last year at Georgia State," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "We played heads-up and very focused plus relaxed at the same time."

After easily taking the first game, the Lady Raiders went for the victory in the second by outscoring GSU by 19 points.

MT did not stop at game two. The Lady Raiders took over in the third game and

won the match.

The Lady Panthers went cold for the entire match with a .129 hitting percentage and MT had a .333 percentage.

GSU struggled for the whole match with MT, as the Lady Raiders began the match with the lead and held it for all three games.

"I wasn't really sure the team was going to win the three straight games," Peck said. "I mean, we're capable of beating a team with three straight wins, and we're as equally capable of losing three, and we're equal."

KeKe Deckard led the Lady Raiders in kills with 17, while Dara McLean had 15. Deckard also tallied 12 digs, which was the lead of the team.

It was also her fifth time recording a consecutive double-double and her ninth overall.

GSU did not have a single player in double digits in kills. Danielle Gonzalez had seven kills to lead the team.

The MT defense created nine total blocks, while GSU only had six.

"I am pleased with the performance we had for this match," Peck said.

MT improved its record to 16-12 while GSU dropped to 13-17.

"Usually we have been playing very well even though we lost to Arkansas State, we still played a great match at Little Rock," Peck said. "We just generally had been playing well at the end of this here season."

MT has a home record of 9-2 and has blown out opponents during their last two matches here in Murfreesboro.

The Lady Raiders will take on travel to Western Kentucky to take on the Lady Toppers on Friday, then travel to Louisiana-Lafayette to finish up the regular season on Sunday.

The team will then participate in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, which will begin on Nov. 18 in New Orleans. ♦

Photo by Mitch Cholerton | Staff Photographer  
**MT sophomore setter Megan Sumrell led the Blue Raiders in assists in the win over Georgia State.**

## Lady Raiders make appearance in WNIT

By **Mark Emery**  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team is preparing to play in the school's first ever Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament.

This will be the 12th year that the Preseason WNIT has been played. The top 25 teams like Duke, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Arizona during its 11 seasons, the tournament has included teams like Connecticut, Louisiana Tech, Kansas State, Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Texas Tech.

Of the 16 teams in last year's postseason, nine of them played in last year's postseason.

Joining the Lady Raiders is the University of South Florida, who MT defeated in the first round of last year's NCAA tournament.

This season marks the second straight year the Lady Bulls have played in the tournament.

"The opportunity that the WNIT has given us is a compliment to the progress that we have made the past few years," USF head coach Jose Fernandez told USF Media Relations.

"And matching us up against an opponent like Middle Tennessee State will only help to make us a better team as we look to win a Conference USA championship."

USF is sophomore All-America candidate Jessica Dickson, who was also tabbed a pre-season All-Conference USA selection. She was one of only two sophomores named to the team. Last year Dickson started in all 29 games and led the Bulls in scoring with just over 18 points per game, while also averaging six rebounds per contest.

Senior guard Anedra Gilmore, who averaged

six assists and nearly three steals per game, also leads the team.

Sophomore Nalini Miller was second on the team last year in scoring with more than 10 per game and led the team in rebounding with 7.6 per game. She also led the team in blocked shots with 75 and was second in steals with 41.

In the two team's exhibition games, they put up almost identical numbers.

In both of the Bulls games, they had four players score in double figures and Miller led the team with 13.5 points per game.

The Lady Raiders have not lost a season opener since losing to UAB in 1999. It was also the last time that MT has lost a home opener.

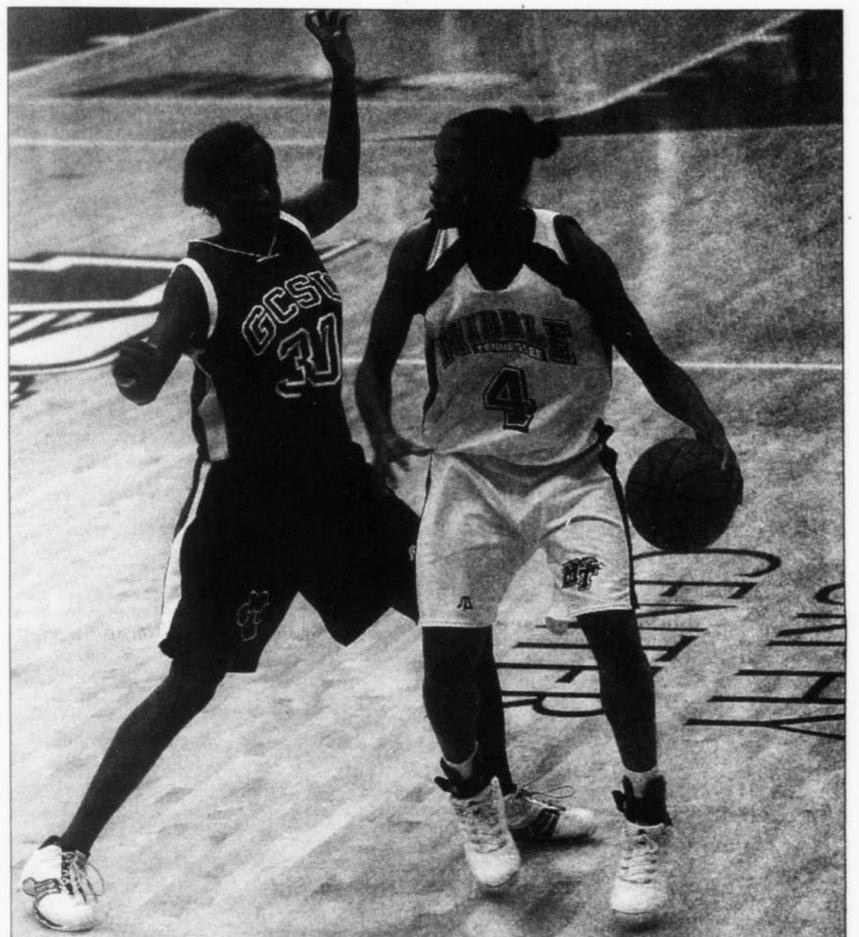
"We have had two exhibition games that have helped show us where we need to be, but we still have a way to go," Patrice Holmes told MT Media Relations.

"I guess it is for real on Friday when we play South Florida, and if we play the way I think we can, hopefully we can advance to the second round of the Preseason WNIT."

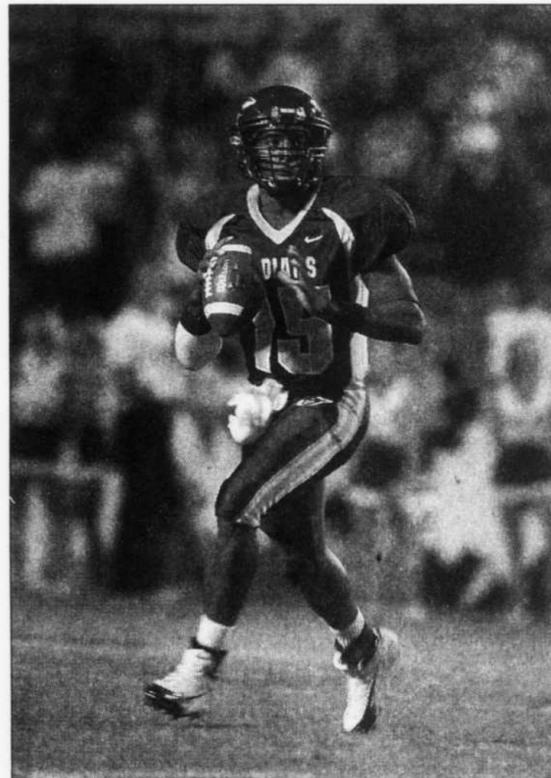
Holmes, who led the team to a second-round appearance in last year's NCAA tournament, will look to close out her career as a Lady Raider with another Sun Belt Conference title.

With a win in the first round, the Lady Raiders will advance to the second round of the tournament and play the winner of the Duke and Davidson game. ♦

File Photo  
**MT forward Krystle Horton led the team to a win against Georgia College and State University, ULM 19 points.**



## Talented, experienced veterans lead balanced ULM team



By **Jill Davis**  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday was not Middle Tennessee's day of glory in football. A disappointing 44-10 defeat at New Mexico State and key losses during the game due to injuries gave the Blue Raiders a reason to want to come back and get things together.

Saturday's contest against Louisiana-Monroe will be the final home game for many seniors that have led the Blue Raiders for the past two years or more, including All-American candidate Kerry Wright.

Getting healthy and staying away from more injuries has been the focus of this week for the team.

Running back Eugene Gross, who managed only 27 yards against the Aggies, and defensive lineman Jerry Vanderpool were both injured during the game.

At Monday's press conference MT head coach Andy McCollum expressed his concerns about the injuries.

"Every time we looked around we were mixing and matching, but we had some guys

Photo courtesy of ULM Media Relations  
**ULM quarterback Steven Jyles has passed for 1,859 yards this season.**

who did play hurt that I am proud of," McCollum said. "Jeff Littlejohn is playing hurt. Roy Polite and Damon Nickson, two freshmen corners, were playing hurt. Dennis Burke played the whole game. We had to move some guys around since we lost Darren Mustin. We are a banged-up football team."

Kyle Ringley, a junior offensive lineman, has been preparing all week and will be replacing center Marcus Gates Saturday.

Without having an off-week all season, the Blue Raider offense has to step up against the tough Indian defense that is led by senior linebacker John Winchester, who has 86 tackles for the year.

The challenge, however, is going to come from ULM's quick and efficient offense.

The Indians beat Utah State last week 32-25 after quarterback Steven Jyles scored the game-winning touchdown with only 50 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Jyles was 22-of-32 in passing for 284 yards and two interceptions against the Aggies.

This year marks the first four-win season the Indians have had since 1999, and McCollum expressed his respect for them in his press conference.

"I think they are greatly improved because they have an older football team,"

McCollum said. "They have some guys who have played in a lot of football games. I think about their safety Chris Harris. I think he's one of the better players in the league and have always thought that."

"Steven Jyles has played in a lot of games, so they are an older football team with experienced guys playing," McCollum continued. "They have a big receiver in Drouzon Quillen who makes plays. Their running backs run well. Jyles is a threat running or throwing and they have always been a good defense."

With the MT passing attack, Saturday's game should be exciting.

Both teams are 4-5 overall, and if the MT offense can overcome injuries, the Blue Raiders should be able to score with the Aggies.

Sophomore quarterback Clint Marks, who leads the SBC in passing efficiency and total offense, leads that offense.

Marks has 12 touchdowns and 2,377 yards passing and will be awarded a victory senior wide receiver Wright out with a victory.

Kickoff for Saturday's game is 2:05 p.m. The game has also been designated as Rutherford County Education Day. ♦

## Officials strengthen ties with county Education Day

By **Colby Sledge**  
Sports Editor

MTSU officials are hoping to build stronger ties with local high schools during Middle Tennessee's final home football game.

Saturday's contest against Louisiana-Monroe has been dubbed Rutherford County Education Day and will include a spirit contest throughout the game. Students from four area high schools - Oakland,

Blackman, Siegel and Smyrna - will be in attendance.

"We first pitched this idea to the high school principals last spring," Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Glenn said. "They all liked the idea and signed off on it, so we developed it in the summer."

MTSU provided tickets for this Saturday's football game at a reduced rate of \$2. Students from various groups at the schools could then resell those tickets for \$7 and keep the profit.

"We wanted them to be able to make money if they wanted to," Glenn said. "As you know, selling the tickets is not what pushes us. It's people coming through the turnstiles that's important to us this particular season."

Glenn said he did not know how many tickets the schools have sold. Those tickets will be in the upper level on the student side of the stadium.

All fans will be able to sign in on Saturday for one of the four schools, which will be part of an

overall points system to determine the winner. Other contests, including a halftime competition among the student body presidents from the schools, will also play into the points system.

The Blue Raiders must attract 22,904 fans to the final home game in order to reach an average of 15,000 fans. Glenn did not expect the promotion to provide a large increase in attendance.

"It just gives people another reason for coming to the

games," Glenn said. "It may not be a compelling reason, it may not boost our numbers... but if it works, hopefully we can keep on doing it as a way to encourage interaction between us and those area schools."

The winning school will receive a check for \$1,500 to spend as they please, Glenn said. The second-place school will earn \$1,000 and the third-place school will earn \$500. All prize money will be awarded by the Blue Raider Athletic Association. ♦

### Editor's note:

The third and final installment of *Sidelines*' focus on attendance problems at Middle Tennessee football games will run next Thursday due to breaking stories this week. That article will focus on how local schools with Division I-AA football teams attract fans and promote interest in athletics. *Sidelines* apologizes for the inconvenience. ♦

# MT vs. Louisiana-Monroe GameDay Preview



(4-5)

By Jon Leffew  
Assistant Sports Editor

### When MT runs

After defending the MT running game all year, the group proved last week why they are ranked 111th nationally in rushing.

While Eugene Gross has shown flashes of brilliance (seven touchdowns on just 96 carries), he has also shown an uncanny ability to get hurt.

Couple this with a banged-up offensive line and an Indian defense that is at least average, and the Blue Raiders probably won't rush for many yards.

Advantage: ULM

### When MT passes

Although the Indian pass defense is average (209 yards per game allowed), Clint Marks and Kerry Wright will look to send the Blue Raider seniors out in style and rebound from last week's sorry showing at New Mexico State. Marks threw for a season-low 124 yards and two interceptions, and Wright caught just two passes.

There's no direction to go now but up.

Advantage: MT

### When ULM runs

The bright spot of the MT defense all year has been the run defense, which ranks 42nd nationally.

The Indians have used a balanced rushing attack all year, as evidenced by their 128 yards on the ground last week using five different players.

Quarterback Steven Jyles and running back Mason Denham both average 49.1 yards per game, and Jyles has a team-leading seven touchdowns on the ground this year.

Advantage: Even

### When ULM passes

The Blue Raider defense continued to turn heads last week, although most of the time it was the heads of players, coaches and fans watching New Mexico State players trot into the end zone.

For the Indians, Jyles and his receivers, who are led by Drouzon Quillen (70 yards receiving per game, six total touchdowns), should likely have their best game through the air all year.

As if the Indians needed any more help, their offensive line has allowed only five sacks all season.

Advantage: ULM

### Special Teams

MT punter/place-kicker Colby Smith has gone from quality kicker to team staple. Smith has connected on 11 of 13 field goal attempts and 26 of 26 extra points and was announced Monday as a semi-finalist for the Lou Groza Award.

Paul Wheeler is above average as the kickoff man, and Wright is a threat anytime he touches the ball in the return game.

For the Indians, Joel Stelly is an excellent punter (45.4 yards per punt) and kickoff man (58 yards per kickoff).

Mason Denham is an explosive punt returner, but the Indian field goal unit is suspect.

Advantage: MT

### Intangibles

The Blue Raiders are coming off their worst loss since joining the Sun Belt, and Floyd Stadium will be a welcome site, no matter how you see it.

On the other hand, the Indians are coming off a huge win against Utah State and will look to even their record at 5-5 with a win on Saturday.

But it's Senior Day for Middle Tennessee, which should provide added motivation for the Blue Raiders.

Advantage: Even

### Coaching

ULM head coach Charlie Weatherbie is in his second season at the school and is looking to build the program into a winner. With a victory on Saturday, the team has a chance at a winning record for the first time in a long time.

MT head coach Andy McCollum also has hopes for a winning season, but right now those chances look a lot smaller.

Advantage: ULM

### Conclusion

On paper, this looks to be an intriguing matchup. The explosiveness of the Blue Raider offense against the overall balance of the Indians should make this game a close one for four quarters.

If the Blue Raiders make the mistakes of last week, however, the Indians could win big. On the other hand, if MT explodes and gets on the scoreboard early and often, then the Blue Raiders could win big.

We don't have much faith in either, so this one will likely be very close. ♦



(4-5)

Pos.	No.	Name
<b>Offense</b>		
QB	13	Clint Marks
RB	20	Eugene Gross
FB	31	Nick McAfee
WR (X)	1	Kerry Wright
WR (Y)	15	Cleanord Saintil
WR (Z)	11	Pedro Holiday
WR (H)	3	Chris Henry
TE	85	Stephen Chicola
LT	60	Willie Hall
LG	58	Quinton Staton
C	51	Kyle Ringley
RG	71	Joe Evilsizer
RT	73	Germayle Franklin
<b>Defense</b>		
LE	43	Erik Walden
NG	92	Jeff Littlejohn
T	93	Thomas Johnson
RE	56	Antoine Owens
SLB	40	Dennis Burke
MLB	23	Alvin Fite
WLB	41	Marcell Horne
LC	24	Bradley Robinson
LS	30	Jeremiah Weaver
RS	8	Jonathan Harris
RC	5	Damon Nickson
<b>Special Teams</b>		
PK/P	46	Colby Smith
KO	49	Paul Wheeler
HO	47	Walt Bell
DS	36	John Crawford
PR	1	Kerry Wright
KR	6	Lee Baker
Head Coach		Andy McCollum
Athletic Director		Boots Donnelly

Pos.	No.	Name
<b>Offense</b>		
QB	15	Steven Jyles
TB	33	Mason Denham
WR (X)	18	Drouzon Quillen
WR (Y)	1	Joey Trappey
WR (Z)	9	Joe Merritt
TE (H)	41	Jeremy Hammock
LG	79	Adam Hill
LT	76	Bruce Hampton
C	52	Hayden Wadsworth
RT	75	Kyle Cunningham
RG	55	Patrick Avinger
<b>Defense</b>		
DE	42	Brandon Guillory
DT	92	Maynard Johnny
DT	93	Dilandos Johnson
DE	99	Alnecco Shine
ILB	32	Jason Schule
ILB	12	John Winchester
S	5	Chris Harris
CB	21	Cash Mouton
S	47	Damien Richard
S	23	Shelton Williams
CB	24	Chaz Williams
<b>Special Teams</b>		
PK	87	Cole Wilson
KO/P	13	Joel Stelly
HO	82	Josh Hudnall
DS	54	Cody Bauman
PR/KR	84	Charles Estes
Head Coach		Charlie Weatherbie
Athletic Director		Bobby Staub

**MT 31**

**ULM 28**

## Wheelchair: Access limited

Continued from 1

even accessible, and we're hosting the National Wheelchair Championship this year," Paul said. "I've been going back and forth with [Director of Disabled Services] John Harris about that, and it's been going on for two years now."

Harris was out of town and could not be reached for comment. MTSU has more than 1,000 students registered with Disabled Student Services, which serves students with physical and learning disabilities.

For some students in wheelchairs, the lack of access to athletic facilities has changed their view of MTSU as a whole.

"Having traveled to universities across the country and having heard MTSU tout its disabled services as being the best in the country, I totally now realize that's inaccurate," Paul said.

"I love MTSU with all my heart, but some people just don't give a care about people in wheelchairs," Taylor said. "I like MTSU, I love football, but something has to be done about this." ♦

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# North Texas seeks 24th straight SBC win

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Writer

This week three Sun Belt Conference games will be shown on television as the 2004 season comes to a close.

## Utah State Aggies (2-7, 1-4) at Arkansas State Indians (2-7, 1-4)

This week's conference schedule kicks off tonight with two teams looking to snap losing streaks.

Currently the Aggies have lost five games in a row, including four in the conference. Last week, USU lost to Louisiana-Monroe 32-25. USU will be trying to end the Mick Dennehy era on a positive note, since the Aggie head coach was fired on Monday but will finish the season.

The Indians have lost two in a row, including a 45-31 loss to Idaho last Saturday.

Both teams will be meeting each other for the fifth time, with USU leading the series 3-1.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. tonight from Indian Stadium. The game will be shown on ESPN Regional, but not locally.

## Idaho Vandals (3-7, 2-4) at North Texas Mean Green (5-4, 5-0)

The Mean Green will try to extend their SBC conference-winning streak to 24 against a team that will be playing in their final SBC

conference game.

The Vandals will be moving to the Western Athletic Conference after this season.

UNT comes into the game with at least a share of the SBC title after their 27-17 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette last Friday night.

Idaho defeated ASU 45-31 last Saturday.

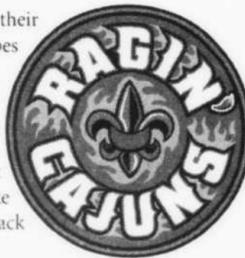
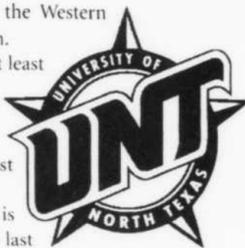
The series between the two teams is even at 4-4, but UNT has won the last three games.

Kickoff is set for 6:05 from Fouts Field on Saturday night. It will be televised on ESPN Regional, locally on Comcast Sports Southeast, Channel 27.

## Troy Trojans (5-4, 3-2) at Louisiana-Lafayette (4-5, 2-3)

The Trojans will be trying to keep their slim conference championship hopes alive on the road against ULL.

Both teams are playing each other for the ninth time. However, the last matchup came 10 years ago with a Troy victory. Current Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme was the losing quarterback in that game.



ULL has the series advantage 7-1.

Last week the Trojans defeated Florida Atlantic 24-6. In the victory, Loeidis McKelvin returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown, earning him SBC Special Teams Player of the Week.

ULL lost to UNT 27-17 last Friday night.

Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. from Cajun Field on Saturday. This game will be shown on CSS before the UNT-Idaho game.

## New Mexico State Aggies (4-5, 3-2) at Florida Atlantic Owls (6-2)

The Aggies will try to hang on to their SBC title hopes with a win against a future SBC member.

This will be the first-ever game between the two teams, and it will count as a SBC conference game for NMSU. This game is also FAU's homecoming.

Last week the Owls lost to Troy 24-6, while the Aggies defeated Middle Tennessee 44-10.

In the Aggies' win last week, quarterback Buck Pierce went 23-of-34 for 306 yards and two touchdowns. Pierce also ran for 39 yards and caught a 40-yard pass. His performance earned him SBC Offensive Player of the Week.

Linebacker Dustin Sober picked off two passes and had two sacks in the NMSU victory. He earned SBC Defensive Player of the Week honors.

Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. on Saturday from Lockhart Stadium. ♦

# MT finishes regular season against Lady Toppers, Ragin' Cajuns

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team is gearing up for their final two regular games of the season this weekend.

The Blue Raiders head to Western Kentucky on Friday to face the Lady Toppers before going to the Louisiana-Lafayette on Sunday to take on the Ragin' Cajuns.

Friday's game brings a much-anticipated rematch between MT and WKU (22-9, 9-3). MT was shut out by the Lady Toppers on Sept. 24, the first game after

senior outside hitter Keke Deckard was injured.

"It was our first conference match of the season and Keke [Deckard], one of our best players, was injured," MT volleyball head coach Matt Peck said. "I think it'll be a different story this time."

The tables seem to have turned somewhat for the game, with WKU's primary attacker senior Amanda Schiff benched due to an injury incurred last week.

In addition to MT's full lineup in place, Peck has been focusing practices this week on taking advantage of WKU's style of play.

"We're very athletic teams; they just run a different pace than we do, slower and more deliberate," Peck

said. "We are going to try and run a fast offense."

Peck knows the Lady Toppers will be trying to take the Blue Raiders out of their game as well.

"They [WKU] know we are very capable of beating them," Peck said. "They are going to try and keep us out of their offense."

WKU is currently tied with ASU for first place in the SBC East Division. After MT's loss to ASU, the Blue Raiders are standing at third. An MT win at WKU and an ASU loss to Florida International would place MT in the running for the top spot in the division.

Although the MT coaching staff is very familiar

with the Lady Toppers, Sunday's game against ULL (7-20, 3-6) presents a bit of a preparation challenge.

"We know nothing about them [ULL]," Peck said. "I think they are out of the running for the tournament, but other than that, we'll watch the tapes and do our best."

The Ragin' Cajuns are indeed eliminated from tournament play. ULL was recently shut out by New Mexico State at home for their third straight loss and second consecutive loss at home.

ULL will take on the North Texas, who is currently in fourth place in the West Division, this Friday in Lafayette before hosting MT on Sunday at noon. ♦

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Campus Crossings 2BD. Rent \$505/mo. All girl apt. 1 Rm. vacant during spring semester. All utilities included. Call Shea at 615-218-1888. Lease until July, stating Jan. 1st!

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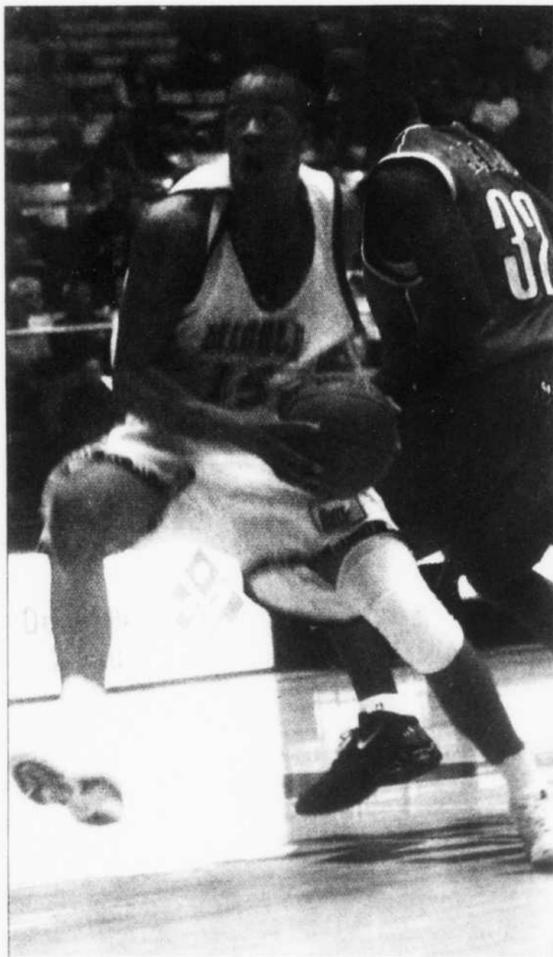
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# Blue Raiders host exhibition

By Chase Williams  
Staff Writer

The 2004-05 edition of the Middle Tennessee men's basketball squad will tip off the season on Thursday when they host NCAA Division II foe North Alabama in an exhibition matchup.

Though this game does not count toward the overall record, the Blue Raiders are very happy and excited to be mixing it up on the floor with another team.

"We have made quite a bit of progress in the off-season towards improvement," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "We are basically just going to play and worry about MT first. I

File Photo

**MT senior guard Mike Dean will look to lead the Blue Raiders back to the Sun Belt Conference Championship game again this season. Dean, who was selected to the All-Conference First Team prior to the season, led last year's team in scoring with 16.2 points per game.**

think that it is important for a lot of guys to play."

The Blue Raiders, picked to finish first in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference by the conference coaches, return four starters from last year's 17-12 team.

MT will look to senior guard Mike Dean for leadership.

Dean led the squad in scoring last year with 16.2 points per game. Along with preseason All-SBC first-walker Dean, the Blue Raiders welcome back senior forward Michael Cuffee, sophomore forward Kyle Young and sophomore point guard Bryan Smith to the starting lineup.

MT is also eagerly awaiting the debut of senior center Steve Thomas in December. Thomas, a transfer from Georgia, is a pre-season third Georgia-SBC selection, despite sitting out all of last

year due to NCAA transfer guidelines.

Thomas will also have to sit out the first seven games this season.

"Steve Thomas has really stepped up as leader for us," Davis said. "Mike Dean just keeps getting better and better, and Kyle Young absolutely comes to play every day. As far as new guys go, [freshman] Brian Lake is playing pretty well and learning as he goes."

UNA finished 12-16 a year ago. The Lions returns only one starter from last year, senior guard Pervis Key.

In addition to Key, the Lions are led by three other seniors: guard Luke Copeland, guard Javier Palacios and forward Montrell Richardson.

Averaged about eight points a

game last season.

"We do not know a whole lot about them. It is just an exhibition, so we're just going to play as many guys as we can and try to get some experience," Davis said.

"I do know that [UNA head coach] Bobby Champagne will have his team ready to play," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders hope that this will be a positive start to a special season.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I'm proud of the progress we have made so far," Davis said. "We just have to keep it up in practice consistently, and strive to be better than the day before."

Tipoff for Thursday's exhibition matchup is 7 p.m. at Murphy Center. ♦

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