



Indian Festival
March 4-5

Feb. 27, 2006
MONDAY

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Preview

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Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

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MURFREESBORO, TN

SBC Championship coming to town

Sunbelt brings tourists, revenue to Murfreesboro

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

MTSU and Rutherford County will see big benefits from the Sun Belt Basketball Championship that will be hosted by MTSU for the first time. The tournaments, which will take place March 2-7, will draw many tourists and substantial revenue and exposure for MTSU and the county. When determining what school will host the tournaments, Commissioner for the Sun Belt Conference Wright Waters said city amenities such as hotels, late-night restaurants and access to transportation are all taken into consideration. "Each year, institutions are invited to bid on the tournament and the award is given three years in advance," Waters said. Waters added that the criteria for a

school to win the bid includes looking at how much money the institution will save by not having to travel to "level the playing field." Previously, schools were essentially buying the conference and spending more money to host it than they were seeing in returns. Waters said the bidding process emphasizes quality over finances and gives every institution the same opportunity. "Though the crowd turnout is different every year depending on which team is playing well, Waters said he expects large numbers this year. According to Mark Owens, MTSU assistant athletic director for media relations, MTSU is counting on the community, students, season ticket-holders and the casual basketball fan who "wants to come here and see some good college basketball." "We're counting on everybody. We're hoping the community really steps up and backs us and shows support," Owens said. Waters said MTSU alone stands to gain at least \$400,000 when accounting for the money saved in travel and the revenue from tickets.

Since the tournament is during spring break at MTSU, it could affect the attendance, Owens said. "Hopefully not everyone is going out of town for spring break and we can get big turnouts and get support for our teams," he said. MTSU students will be able to attend the games for free with their student I.D. and other spectators can purchase a 20-game ticket package for \$80. Owens added that tickets are available per session as well. Mona Herring, director of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, said the conference will have about a \$3 million impact on the county. She said the tournament will generate revenue through an increase in sales tax as tourists shop, eat and buy gasoline locally. "I imagine it's going to be pretty hard to get a table at any of our local restaurants during that time- which is a good thing for us," Herring adds. She said the city and county began preparing for the 22 teams by contacting



MT Freshman center Theryn Hudson blocks a Western Kentucky shot during the 80-74 victory Thursday night.



The cast and crew of 'Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival,' perform at the Tucker Theatre.

'Mayor Moon' to play in Honduras

By Sarah Crotzer
Staff Writer

After raising money to help children of Cane, a village in Honduras by presenting "Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival" will go back into rehearsals in mid-April. It will then travel to Honduras from May 1 - May 14, performing at Soto Cano Airbase and the village of Cane. "The village is extremely poor," said director Deborah Anderson. "We want to share something with them that will give them pure joy for an hour. While we're there, we're going to work on rebuilding their orphanage, their soup kitchen, and their school." The project started when she was asked to take over the summer children's show. From there, it developed into a broader project in association with Jenny Rogers' KidSAKE

Foundation, which has formed a partnership with MTSU to help children in Cane, she said. "This has really been a different experience," Anderson said. "I'm usually a very structured director, but this time I chose to give in to controlled chaos. I wanted the actors to feel open to creating. "We were all on the same page from the beginning," she said. "I think that allowed us to have the controlled chaos. Anderson said some actors were doing things "out of the ordinary." "We had a juggling class, and one actor learned to walk on stilts. Almost everyone played an instrument in the show," she said. Crosby Hunt, playwright of "Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival," said he wanted to be more involved with the performance. "I'd written two shows before, and one was a kids' show," he said. "I wanted to be part of this project, and I'm not acting in it or directing it, so I wrote it." Hunt said there were many stages in the creative process of putting the play together. "The first image I got was of [food] sellers,"

he said. "I knew they sold tortillas in Honduras, so I thought, 'What else would there be?' Bananas, mangoes? And why are they selling? There could be some kind of festival." Hunt described how more characters came into the story. "I knew I wanted it to be a play about community, about people who wouldn't normally save the day. I thought the festival needed a foolish mayor, and then this wind character came in because I needed conflict." The show wasn't planned as a musical, Hunt said. "I heard a story that the sellers in Honduras were musical," he said, citing it as the genesis of the musical element. "I wrote the lyrics to the songs. Matt Hiller composed the music, and everything just fell into place." The script has changed a lot over time, and credits the cast with the credit for the performance. Hunt said. "I was really thrilled to see how much

See 'Mayor Moon', 2

Rape Recovery Center helps local residents

By Michaela Jackson
Managing Editor

Before the advent of Murfreesboro's Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, sexual assault victims had to travel to Davidson County to receive aid. Sexual assault victims were sent to Nashville due to the lack of services available at the Domestic Violence Center, according to Justine Biola, a volunteer at the Center since January. "We give voice to victims, their families and the community; we create change in beliefs, attitudes and behaviors; we instill courage for people to speak out about sexual assault," is the Center's mantra. This is the mission statement of Murfreesboro's Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, which is located at 826 Memorial Blvd. It was founded in July 2003 to reduce the incidences of sexual assault and aid victims in their recovery. Biola, a women's studies minor, said she is disappointed in the way the public, and in particular the media, has responded to the rape that took place on campus on Feb. 16. "I was really disappointed with the [composite sketch of the suspect] that was run in the paper and was put all over campus," she said. "It's promoting fear and distrust. It doesn't make any sense because that picture, when you look at it, could be any 6-foot tall, short-haired black man on campus." "I'm in a race and gender class, and we held that picture up to every black guy in our class, and it could have been anybody," Biola said. Biola, along with the others at the Center, want students and Murfreesboro residents to know

that there is a place sexual assault victims can go to get help. "When people are upset, when something like that has happened, they want their community to help them," Biola said. "They don't wanna go 30 miles to the next city to have someone give them service. Now, people in Murfreesboro have somewhere to go." The Center provides support to sexual assault victims in the form of hospital accompaniment, legal advocacy and a 24-hour crisis line where volunteers are ready to give out information and advice, or just listen. "When [victims] call, we'll encourage them to report the rape... and tell them what to expect," said Biola. "Most rapes go un-reported. When they report it, it helps the police and the government see that this is a real issue that needs backing." The service is completely confidential, and those seeking help can deny any personal information that is reported. "I would say [to women who are afraid to call] don't be nervous or anxious because the people who go through the training are all women," Biola said. "They're all willing to help it's all confidential, and they have so much valuable information that people wouldn't even think about." Victims of sexual abuse who do not receive help can result negatively according to Ruth Howard, the Center's Executive Director. "Not getting help, not talking about it, not getting proper mental health therapy can lead to a lot of negative outcomes: drinking, sleep disorders, self-mutilation, promiscuity," Howard said. "The [Center's] counsel told

See Rape Center, 3

<p>LOCAL FORECAST</p> <p>Tuesday Wednesday Thursday</p> <p>HI: 63° LO: 52° PRECIP: 0%</p> <p>HI: 68° LO: 55° PRECIP: 20%</p> <p>HI: 64° LO: 46° PRECIP: 30%</p>	<p>CAMPUS</p> <p>SGA Elections...</p> <p>Students can vote for next year's Student Government in the elections starting tomorrow and running through March 2.</p>	<p>NEWS</p> <p>Concrete Industry</p> <p>Alby Materials announced a new scholarship for MTSU's Concrete Industry Management on Feb. 16.</p>	<p>FEATURES</p> <p>Black History Month</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, the overturning of Brown v. Board of Education which ended segregation, Rosa Parks refusing to give up her bus seat; these are just a few moments in history that have defined Black's heritage.</p>	<p>MTSUSIDELINES.COM</p> <p>Online today</p> <p>Sidelines online is uploaded.</p> <p>LOG ON!</p> <p>Got a news tip, band listing, campus organization activity, column or story idea or a gripe? Check our Web site for contact information.</p>	<p>LETTERS POLICY</p> <p>Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to slipino@mtsu.edu, and include your contact information for verification.</p> <p>Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.</p> <p>Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Tuesday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.</p>
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Photo by Adam Gasto | Photography Editor

The MTSU's theatre's department looks ahead to performing 'Mayor Moon,' again in a small Honduras town.

'Mayor Moon': "In Honduras"

Continued from 1

they've done with it," he said. "They're my words with their energy."

In bringing Mayor Moon to life, the costume and scene shops worked to create a fun and fanciful environment on stage.

"The interesting part about doing Mayor Moon is that it's been very open in terms of design, so anything we've built has had our own, personal touch," said Carianne Lance, one of many scene shop employees. "We've been able to add our own creativity."

Lance said the set was not like any other the department has built, and aside from creativity, there was also a practical side to set construction.

"The designer gives us parameters on what they want," said Moses Riggan, another shop employee. "They say they want a tree sixteen feet tall and eight feet wide, and it's up to us to decide how to make it work."

Riggan said coming up with a workable design that is both safe and effective were key elements of the process.

Assistant technical director and scene shop manager Sarah Matzke said that in many ways, Mayor Moon is a typical project. For "Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival," Amanda

Hodges, the designer, brought in plans for the set, then constructed a model in a quarter-inch scale, then a prop list.

"We've worked about three weeks on this show," she said.

"The main goal was to get the set up before dress and technical rehearsals, with the set pieces in place. The week before the show, we put in the finishing touches."

As well as the two public performances, special performances of "Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival" were given for school groups on Thursday and Friday. This gave the cast their first responses from children, who seemed to both enjoy the show and relate to the characters.

"There was a girl that came up and hugged me," said Paige Hall, who portrays nerdy girl Matilda.

"She said, 'Do they really think you're weird?' I said, 'Yes, they do, they think I'm really weird.' She said, 'They think I'm weird, too.'"

"There was a great response, especially afterward," said fellow cast member Dustin Napier. "I got about a million high-fives from the kids."

Napier said that this is really the easy part of the project; the hard part will be working and staging the show in Honduras.

"We're ready for that, though," he said. "That's when it becomes more than just a show."

I am willing to bring a whole fresh new approach to SGA

THE GREAT DEBATE
FOR SGA PRESIDENT
2006

I feel as if it is important to reach out to students who aren't traditionally represented...

JAY CASH

KYLA JOHNSON

SGA elections are here

By Valerie Nutt
Staff Writer

Students can vote for next year's Student Government in the elections starting tomorrow and running through March 2.

The elections will allow students to vote on Pipeline for President, Executive Vice President and Speaker of the Senate, Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs, Election Commissioner, and all Senate seats.

"I believe the student body's voice is very important," said Dr. Dena Raffo, Director of Leadership Development, as she presided over the SGA election debate on Feb. 20.

This was the first SGA election debate in at least two years and it gave students a chance to ask executive candidates questions and voice their concerns about student government according to Gene Fitch, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student Life.

Candidates running in each position addressed the growing concern about SGA's close link to the Greek community. The recurring theme during last week's debate was how to promote total student involvement to effectively represent our diverse population.

"I am willing to bring a whole fresh new approach to SGA," said Presidential candidate Jay Cash.

Cash is a junior public relations major with a minor in real estate and also a member of Sigma Chi and an amateur auctioneer.

"I'm a real student, and I've experienced a lot of the difficulties that students face. I want the student body to be proud of their student body president," Cash said.

"I want to make campus events all inclusive," said fellow Presidential candidate Kyla Johnson, a junior recording industry major and a former senator for the School of Mass Communications. She is also a Resident Assistant and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

"A lot of people are concerned with how everything is so Greek-oriented and I feel as if it is important to reach out to students who aren't traditionally represented and to extend to them opportunities to be just as involved," Johnson said.

Among the duties of the President outlined in the SGA Constitution is the ability to veto legislation passed by the Senate and ensuring that all responsibilities delegated to the SGA are faithfully performed.

Candidates for Vice President and Speaker of the Senate, Samantha Linton, Josh McKenzie, and Lizzie Miller have all spent two years on the SGA senate. The position's purpose is to preside over the Student Senate and cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

"I want to strengthen the Senate," Miller said. "I want to strengthen their argument and their voice."

McKenzie said he does not know if the student body knows what the Senate is.

"I hope to stress the fact that it is a voice for them and that it is a way for them to get things done," McKenzie said.

"I feel that in the Senate right now the students have to approach us," Linton said. "The students shouldn't have to. The Senate should be out and about within the campus community and we should approach [students] about their problems."

Meagan Flippin, the current Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs is running unopposed.

"I feel like I've established a lot of relationships with people on campus as well as people I've worked with that will help SGA be successful next year as well," Flippin said to the general applause of her fellow students at the SGA debate.

There are five candidates for Election Commissioner including, Kim Concialdi, Ben Hall, Meaghan Richmond, Christy Stonecipher, and Ashley Tyler. The position

presides over the Election Commission and is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the Electoral Act.

"Zero tolerance is the way to go," Stonecipher said, addressing last semester's homecoming queen election controversy, where a nominee broke the Electoral Act by campaigning in MTSU computer labs, then continued on to win.

"If you break [the rules], end of discussion. There's no other way to handle it," Stonecipher said.

The Election Commission candidates also addressed problems of student participation in SGA elections at the debate.

"I want to emphasize voting to the freshmen to get them more involved and maybe to keep that going so each year more freshmen come in and vote," Concialdi said.

"I think last year 3500 people voted and I'd love to see voting go up," Hall said. "I know the positions here it's really not representing everybody because so few people vote. I'd like to see Greek and non-Greek voting going up a lot."

At the debate, all the Election Commissioner candidates agreed that increased participation and adherence to the rules were very important to the commission and fellow candidates will serve as the Election Commission along side them no matter the winner.

Greek students make up approximately 8 percent of the student body. However they generally represent 60 percent of the voting in SGA elections, Hall said.

"We need to show people that it really does make a difference if you vote," Tyler said.

SGA Elections begin Tuesday and run through Thursday. Sign on to Pipeline, click WebMT and then SGA Elections to view the ballot, vote on candidates and vote on the student referendum.

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Students win at theatre competition

By Sarah Crotzer
Staff Writer

Two MTSU students won at the Region IV competitions for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, held Feb. 6-11.

William C. Fancher won the National Critics' Institute award. In April, he will go on to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where he will compete against seven other regional winners in the national finals.

"Everyone in the critics' workshop wrote four reviews, one for each show," Fancher said. "One is picked as the overall winner and passed on to the nationals. I won for a review of Scapin, which was put on by the University of Southern Mississippi."

The winning review fit the content of the play, Fancher said.

"The show was done in a Vaudeville style," he said, "so my review had lots of old-time come-

dy and pop culture references."

Lorie LaFave won second place in the ten-minute play category with her work, "Shoes to Live For."

"It's a black comedy," LaFave said. "There's a woman on the ledge of a building who is going to jump off; another woman interrupts her, and notices she has an amazing pair of shoes. The second woman tries different tactics to get the shoes from the woman on the ledge."

LaFave said her play "Shoes" is just one of three pieces she sent in to ACTF for consideration.

LaFave has taken playwriting and advanced playwriting. Last year, she submitted a play, 'Anonymous,' that was a finalist, but not one of the top six.

Fancher said he also submitted a ten-minute play, but by the time he learned it wasn't selected he'd already committed to the trip.

"I had agreed to be a scene partner for two Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominees," he said. "I

heard about the Critics' Institute and thought it would be fun."

Since she graduated in December, LaFave said she had not planned to return unless one of her plays was nominated.

Both winners agreed it was a rewarding experience.

"I saw four shows and wrote four reviews in two days," Fancher said. "I had a couple of twenty-hour days with three hours of sleep and one meal, but it was worth it."

"ACTF is always a lot of fun," LaFave said. "I always try to get the most out of it by trying to see every play, going to workshops, and doing as much as possible. It's not very often everyone doesn't have to work or rehearse, so it's a good way for everyone to get together."

Fancher intends to pursue review and criticism, but has other interests as well.

"I'm Chair of the Films Committee," he said, "and I'm

going to be acting in "Take Me Out," which will go up in Tucker Theatre in April."

Fancher is also the host of "Willie Dynamite Presents," a WTMS radio show airing Saturday nights at 10 p.m. He describes the show as "a rhythm-and-blues cavalcade of prop comics and exotic dancers."

LaFave also intends to continue playwriting.

"We can submit to ACTF in the short play competition for a year or two after we graduate," she said, "so that's an option. I'm also looking at applying for internships in directing and dramaturgy."

Two other student playwrights were also regional finalists. Heidi Ervin was nominated for her one-act play, 'Rob the Cradle,' while James Houk was nominated alongside LaFave in the ten-minute play category for his work, "Driving Weather."

SBC: "Championships in town"

Continued from 1

county chamber members, merchants and hotels. She said they have asked them to put out signs to welcome the Sun Belt Conference and have created special maps to help newcomers find their way around the city.

"[We are] just generally trying to roll out the red carpet for them," Herring said.

The conference will also bring more media exposure than the city has experienced in the past.

"We're very excited about that because it's going to showcase not only MTSU, but Murfreesboro and Rutherford County," Herring said.

According to Owens, the six Monday and Tuesday games will air on ESPN.

"The exposure is going to be great because, counting our two teams, there will be 22 teams coming to Murfreesboro," Owens said.

Herring said the conference is similar to the boys and girls state high school championships, but

much farther-reaching because it is at a national level.

Last week, 104.5 the Zone broadcast from the Murphy Center and will be present at Monday's game to help promote the tournament and sell tickets.

"We've got a lot of things going, trying to get the word out, and we think it's going to be a great tournament," Owens said.

Owens said he hopes the impact the conference has on campus will be tremendous.

"This is division-one college basketball, we're part of March Madness and the winner on Tuesday night goes to NCAA tournament."

Owens said he has already had nearly 150 requests for team credentials, which is double the amount of requests from last year's tournament.

The Murphy Center has been revamped for the conference as well. Owens said the floor has been reworked, and new seats have been installed along with general aesthetic upgrades throughout the arena.

MTSU students to see sharks on scuba trip

By Brent Newsome
Staff Writer

Students will have the opportunity to spend their spring break on an underwater adventure in the Utila Bay Islands, where they can see the world's largest fish up close.

"Aside from the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, this reef is the second largest in the world," said Ray Wiley, the associate director of campus recreation.

Wiley, who is responsible for coordinating the event, is excited about the opportunity for students to be able to see migrating whale sharks up close.

"I have talked to a couple of contacts down there and they have already begun to spot the whale sharks," Wiley said.

He said the sharks, though large, are not dangerous. "Even though they are the

largest fish in the world and can grow to an excess of 60 feet long, they still would not harm a human. They are gentle giants and are filter feeders and mainly feed on seaweed."

Kenna Clark, assistant associate of campus recreation, said students should be knowledgeable about scuba diving if they go on the trip.

"Diving has a technical aspect," Clark said. "You must know about pressure and equipment."

The Utila Islands are a continuation of the Belizean reefs and offer extraordinary snorkeling and diving. Warm Caribbean waters surround the islands, and there are numerous different coral types, sponges, fish and marine life as well as warm, clear blue water with tremendous visibility. The Bay Islands are one of the most extensive reef systems in the world, and tourism has increased over the past several

Rape Center: "Open to everyone"

Continued from 1

she is working with one of the clients who had a hospital accompaniment. Howard said. "She credits our agency with saving her life."

"She had made up her mind to go home and kill herself, and because our accompaniment came to the hospital and talked with her and walked her through the whole process, she changed her mind," Howard said.

The call center has taken approximately 140 calls since founding the crisis line in April 2004, Howard said. Since Center's opening in July 2003, 30 hospital accompaniments have been made.

The Center also conducts public-awareness campaigns, visiting schools, churches and offices, giving information on rape and how to prevent it.

Howard also encouraged men to get involved in the fight against sexual assault.

"91 percent of victims of sexual assault are women," she said.

"We need the men to step up and to recognize that they can work with us to help us stop this."

"They've got sisters, they've got girlfriends and it's really important that they be involved, and things like pornography, dirty jokes, objectifying women, those things hurt women, and they can help by taking a stand against those kind of things," Howard said.

Despite the continuing presence of stereotypes against women, improvements are being made on how to deal with incidents of sexual assault on campus.

"Work is being done between the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, the Women's Center and the legal center of MTSU, on guidelines and policy on how to handle sexual assault on the campus," Howard said.

"There has not been a definitive policy that every administration, everybody has followed. Everybody has just been doing their own thing."

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CIM program unique to MTSU

By Wesley Murchison and Tom Cheredar
Staff Writers

Alby Materials announced a new scholarship for MTSU's Concrete Industry Management on Feb. 16.

Along with the announcement, the Wisconsin-based company also provided students with a presentation and on-site job interviews for internships and the possibility of future employment.

Alby Materials is not the only company within the concrete industry to visit with and donate to MTSU's CIM program, which is the only existing program of its kind. The program provides training for students in both the technical and administrative areas of the concrete business.

Attending the event was President Sydney McPhee, who said he was impressed with the results of the CIM program and praised it as "the next generation of programs at this institution" following the success of the recording industry and aerospace programs.

"This is what a real college education is about," McPhee said about the industry support and high employment turnout for CIM graduates.

He urged the students at the presentation to recognize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity they have been given by being a part of the CIM program.

After only three years, CIM has grown to admit close to 300 students, garnering national news coverage and a statement by the Bush administration that others should emulate MTSU's program.

"They are breaking down doors to find out what is going on in this very room," McPhee said.

The "they" McPhee spoke about includes universities around the country and other nations. Currently, the CIM program is working with California State University in Chico, Arizona State University and New Jersey Institute of Technology to help them start their own concrete management programs.

According to CIM Director Austin Cheney, MTSU's CIM program will act as a "flagship" to the new programs, helping them develop and design the curriculum, along with understanding faculty and facility needs that MTSU CIM has gone through in the last 10 years.

Besides the national expansion, President McPhee and Cheney signed a memorandum with the Tongji University in China. The memorandum outlines how MTSU and CIM would assist in establishing an internship exchange and help Tongji develop its own concrete program, said Tom Tozer, director of news and public affairs.

These accomplishments are only the most recent milestones CIM has achieved. Since its creation in 1996, the program has grown from a concentration within the industrial technologies

degree, to a major in 2003.

However, much of the program's success underscores the special and highly nontraditional relationship the program has with its private-sector counter-

and applied sciences, said.

And thus the CIM Patrons was created along with the National Steering Committee.

The CIM Patrons is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that assists the CIM program in its fund-raising efforts, and the National Steering Committee is a group of industry leaders that oversees the CIM program's curriculum to meet the needs of the industry.

A few Concrete Facts about CIM

1994

Robert Elliot, of Lafarge, Inc., and other concrete-related industry leaders decide they need to improve the quality of education and quantity of managers in the industry

1995

The Concrete Industry Management program is approved by MTSU President Sydney McPhee and the Tennessee Board of Regents

1996

The Concrete Industry Management begins as a concentration under the Industrial Technology degree program

2003

Concrete Industry Management becomes a major in the spring of 2003. As a major, CIM graduates 95 students

part. In fact, the success of the program can be directly attributed to the strong support of the concrete industry.

Praises for the CIM program come at a time when public funding for higher education is causing increased budget cuts, fear of competition with private universities that charge higher tuition rates and the pressure from industry to produce skilled graduates.

Executive Vice President and Provost of Academic Affairs Kalyene Gebert says that this kind of relationship is "the face of where higher education is going."

President McPhee has complimented the program as "a good fit between academics and real life experience."

What makes the CIM program different is the program's design and structure. After it was created, the industry leaders who helped create the program realized that resources needed to be channeled and guidance imparted, Earl Keese, retired dean of basic

"They [CIM Patrons] think up something that the [MTSU] foundation might not want to do," Keese said.

In collaboration with the MTSU foundation, which is the primary fundraising entity for MTSU, the CIM Patrons work to promote the CIM program within the concrete industry. They organize

benefits, establish relationships with companies and hold donations for scholarships and other needs that the CIM program might have.

For example, Jim Wicklin, alumni officer within the development office who works with the Engineering Technologies and Industrial Studies department, helped the CIM Patrons set up a golf tournament to raise money for the

provide the necessary oversight so that the CIM program meets the industry standards for skilled graduates.

The reason for this structure of industry support is simple. The CIM program was actually created on the needs and wishes of the concrete industry.

Back in 1994 there was a growing concern over a widening managerial deficit within concrete companies. It became obvious that something needed to be done.

"There was no concrete in universities," said Ward Poston, original patron and market manager of Holman, Inc. "In civil engineering there was only six hours. We found that we were educating adults after they had graduated in our industry."

Then there was also the issue that the industry leaders themselves were approaching retirement.

Austin Cheney said it was Robert Elliot, services representative for Lafarge, Inc., who first started approaching various universities.

In early fall of 1995, Bob Elliot "approached the school with the idea that our industry is really hurting for technical management," Cheney said.

Prior to approaching MTSU, Elliot had tried three other universities with no success. This time, he, along with James Speakman, CEO of Durafiber, Inc., and Ward Poston, was driven to prove his and the industry's determination to Earl Keese to get the program started.

"They dragged him to various industry meetings and in one of the meetings, one of the early ones, they raised 50, 60 thousand dollars right there on the spot. And he [Keese] got up and told them he wouldn't take their money - that unless they were willing to but into the program long term and support the program," Cheney said.

"I didn't want them just to throw money [at the program]," Keese said. "They had to promote the program, recruit students and invest in the students."

Finally, they were able to convince Keese that they could achieve this goal. They had to start a new educational program from nothing. They were able to renovate the Voorhies Industrial Studies building, get equipment through donations and design the curriculum.

"We don't have textbooks. We have industry guidelines," Cheney said.

The program's educational intention was to give students a technical and business skill set that is more akin to an administrator or manager than an engineer.

"You can rise through the ranks fairly quickly," said CIM graduate Dave Barnhill, referring to the type and quality of education he got. "You could become like a project manager or a plant manager easily with two or three years experience."

CIM program's new building.

Then there is the National Steering Committee, which is made up of industry leaders and original patrons who helped start the CIM program. They

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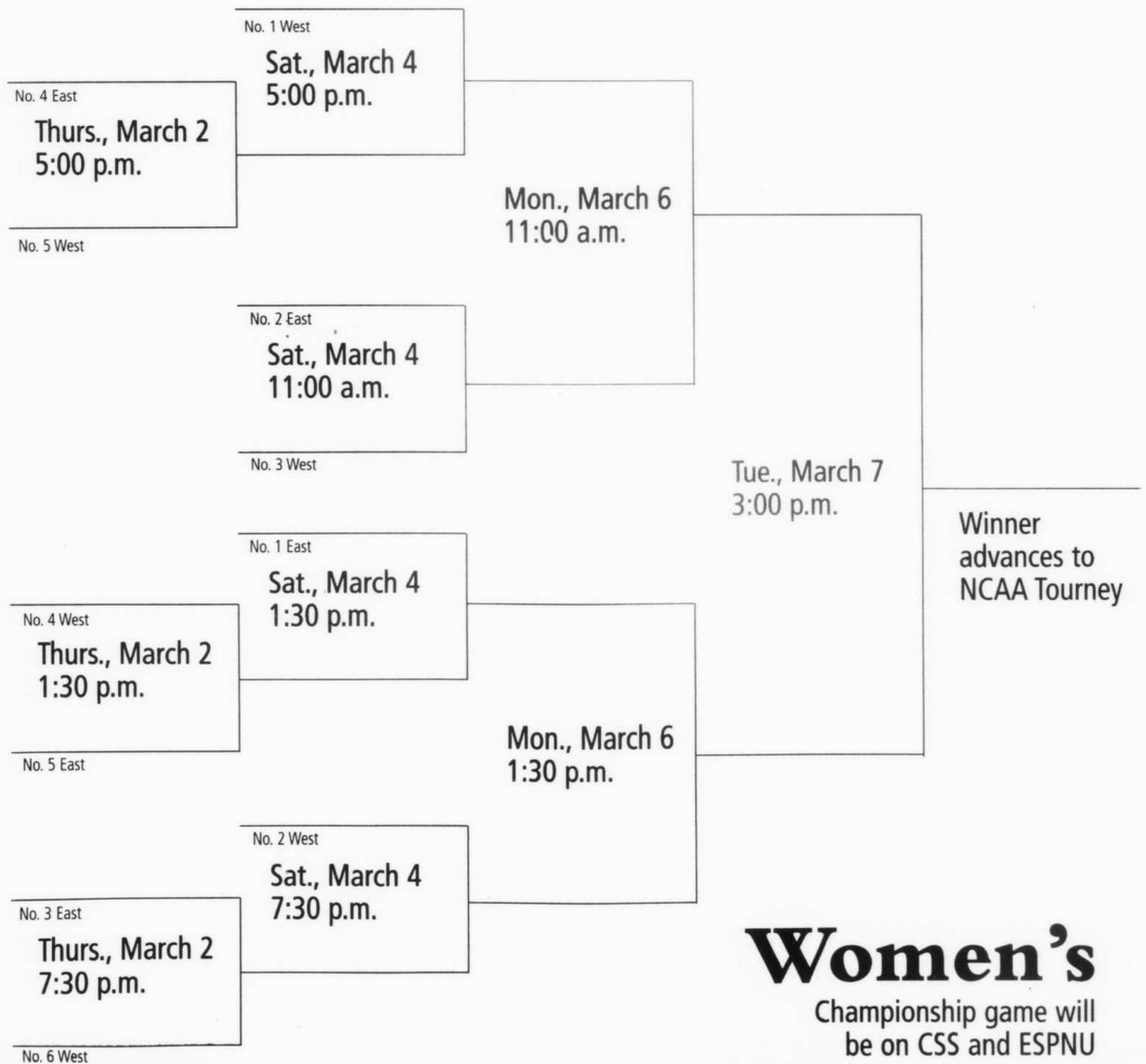
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SBC PREVIEW

SBC Championship Brackets



Celebrating 30 years of SBC

Staff Reports

The first weekend of March will be a busy one for both the men's and women's basketball teams of the Sun Belt Conference.

Starting Mar. 2, teams will gather in the Murphy Center with one thing in mind- a Sun Belt Conference Championship. However, players, coaches, and fans will also be celebrating champions, talented basketball players but also a conference that has been in existence for

30 years since 1977.

This will also be the first time MT has hosted the conference tourney.

MT women's basketball has produced back-to-back championships for the past two years. MT men's basketball has yet to see a Sun Belt championship since entering the Sun Belt Conference in 2001. MT women's basketball is 17-9 after losing to Western Kentucky; men's basketball is 15-11 after defeating conference rival Western Kentucky.

Western Kentucky has been one of the dominant SBC champions in women's basketball along with Louisiana Tech. WKU has eight championships under its belt while Louisiana Tech has seven.

Louisiana-Lafayette has earned back to back championships in men's basketball for the past two years. WKU earned three straight titles before that from in 2001, 2002, and 2003.

The conference dates back to 1977 when UNC Charlotte earned the first Sun Belt Conference basket-

ball championship for the men. The first women's tourney was in 1983. Since then there have been 10 different men's champions and 10 different women's championships in its 30-year history.

The championship kicks off its 30th year Thursday Mar. 2 when the winner of the No. 4 seed in women's Eastern Division plays No. 5 seed in the Western Division at 1:30 p.m. The championship weekend ends Tuesday March 7 as the final two men's basketball teams tip off at 8:30 p.m on ESPN2.

Sun Belt announces 30th anniversary team

By Ebony Pugh

Staff Writer

The Sun Belt Conference reached its 30th anniversary this season. The conference has begun to celebrate by announcing its All-Time Women's and Men's Basketball teams.

A 26 member media panel made the selections for the All-Time basketball teams. The panel selected thirty players for both the men's and women's team.

The 30 member teams consist of legendary players that played at Sun Belt Conference schools throughout their college basketball careers. Thirteen schools are represented on the teams.

The All-Time Women's 30th

Anniversary Team, consist of 30 players.

These 30 women have honors which range from All American titles to Olympic medals. The team consist of Jacque Nero, Sonja Tate, Shyla Tucker, Michaela Pavlickova, Dalma Ivanyi, Gergana Slavtcheva, Anna Petrakova, Vickie Johnson, Debra Williams, Amanda Wilson, Tamicha Jackson, Alisa Burras, Betty Lennox, Patrice Holmes, Cassandra Lumpkins, Kristin Wilson, Jalie Mitchell, Anne Donovan, Medina Dixon, Tracy Claxton, Adrian Vickers, Ella Williams, Orphie Moore, Clemette Haskins, ShaRae Mansfield, Lillie Mason, Kim Pehlke, Tiffany Porter-Thalbert, Natalie Piers and Kateri Talbot.

The All-Time Men's Team also con-

sists of 30 players. The player's honors range from NBA draft picks to SBC players of the year. The players announced for the All-Time Men's team were Derek Fisher, Muntrelle Dobbins, Chico Fletcher, Oliver Johnson, Hector Romero, Cedric Maxwell, Chad Kinch, Byron Dinkins, Kenny Gattison, Chris Gatling, Terry Catledge, Jeff Hodge, Ed Rains, Rory White, Tellis Frank, Kannard Johnson, Chris Marcus, Darnell Mee and Chris Robinson.

The Sun Belt Conference has also had players go on to play in the NBA. The SBC

has had 21 players that were draft choices. 18 of the those were selected in the first and second round of the NBA draft.

Not only does MTSU have the honor of hosting the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Championships, but also had the honor of having two MT players be named to the 30th Anniversary All-Time teams, Tommy Gunn and Patrice Holmes

"It is a prestigious honor for the university to have Tommy Gunn and Patrice Holmes named to the 30th anniversary team" said Denise Gideon, assistant director of media relations here at MTSU.

Gunn, who played for MT 2001-2004 was a four year starter during his career at MT. Gunn was a key player to MT; he finished his career in 2004 as No. 3 in

program history, which means he was the third in Blue Raider to have 1500 points or more in MT history.

Holmes played for MT 2001-2005..Holmes owns the SBC tournament record for points, most field goals made and most field goals attempted. She also tied for the SBC tournament record for most three-pointers. Holmes also ranked sixth in SBC history for scoring, second in steals and 14th in assist.

At this time there will be no ceremony for the players named to the 30th Anniversary teams. There will be some sort of recognition ceremony for the players in the future, but no set date has been announced.



MEN'S EAST DIVISION

Western Kentucky

The perennially powerful Hilltoppers enter the SBC Tournament with the best record in the conference at 21-6, 12-2. WKU is led by a strong backcourt of senior Anthony Winchester (18.4 points per game, 72-168 three point field goals) and sophomore Courtney Lee (18 points per game). In their last visit to Murphy Center on Feb. 23, the Hilltoppers fell 80-74 to Middle Tennessee.

Arkansas State

The Indians enter the tournament with a record of 12-17, 7-7 SBC. ASU will rely on the play of junior forward Isaac Wells (14 points, 6.7 rebounds per game), as well as senior guard Dereke Tipler (13.7 points per game, 73 steals). The Indians lost three consecutive games to end the regular season.

Arkansas-Little Rock

The Trojans of UALR wrapped up the regular season with a record of 13-14, 5-9 SBC. The team is coming off a tough 69-59 loss to Louisiana-Lafayette. The Trojans feature a balanced scoring attack, led by juniors Rashad Jones-Jennings (12.4 points, 11.6 rebounds per game) and Zack Wright (11.9 points per game).

Florida International

The Golden Panthers finished the 2005-06 regular season in last place in the East Division with a record of 8-18, 4-9 SBC. FIU is primarily a one-man show, with senior forward Ivan Almonte averaging a double-double (14.9 points, 11.1 rebounds per game).

MEN'S WEST DIVISION

South Alabama

The Jaguars won the West Division with a record of 21-6, 12-3. Dec. 17, USA defeated NCAA Jounter (13.9 points per game) and forward Richard Law (10.7 points per game, 81.3 free throw percentage).

Louisiana-Lafayette

As the defending SBC Champions, the Ragin' Cajuns at the top of a West Division log-jam with a record of 12-15, 7-8. ULL has played high-profile opponents tough in 2005-06, losing 83-76 to Tennessee and 65-58 to Nevada of the Western Athletic Conference. Leading the way is guard Dwayne Mitchell (17.3 points per game) and center Michael Southall (15.4 points per game, 89 blocks).

Denver

The Pioneers finished third in the West with a record of 15-14, 7-8. Denver has gone 10-1 at home and 2-12 on the road on the year. Spearheading the offense is SBC Player of the Year candidate Yemi Nicholson (19.8 ppg, 11.1 rpg, 78 blks).

New Orleans

The Privateers have faced tough circumstances this season, finishing 9-18, 6-9. UNO upset Arkansas State 62-58 in the regular season finale for both clubs, and nearly upset Vanderbilt earlier in the season.

North Texas

The Mean Green have struggled this season, compiling a 14-12, 6-9 record. In their last trip to Murfreesboro UNT made an u3w4sqapset bid but fells short to MT 62-60 on Feb 9. The Mean Green's hopes rest on the shoulders of junior guard Kendrick Davis (17 points per game, 64 assists) and senior center Jeffrey Simpson (10.8 points per game, 54.9 field goal percentage).

Troy

The Trojans will enter the SBC Tournament after bringing up the rear in the West at 13-14, 6-9. A comparatively soft non-conference schedule could hurt Troy, losers of three straight to end the regular season. The Trojans will rely on the leadership of senior Bobby Dixon (18.7 points per game, 81 assists, 47 turnovers in SBC play).

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Continued to next column

Women finish season in second

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will end the 2005-06 season in second place in the Sun Belt East Conference.

MT (17-9, 10-3 SBC) will also be a No. 2 seed in the SBC Tournament, which gives the Lady Raiders a first round bye. The team will play on Saturday.

However, the Lady Raiders struggled against Western Kentucky Saturday afternoon, which gave MT a loss in the SBC.

MT defeated Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State back-to-back. But in the first meeting against UALR and ASU, the outcome was not the same.

MT fell short against UALR with a 58-53 loss during the winter break.

"One of our goals this year was to go undefeated at home in the

conference, and we have done that," MT head coach Rick Insell said. "We wanted it to be in our hands when we went to Florida International and Western Kentucky. We are playing the top two teams in the conference, besides us."

MT has won 18 straight games at the Murphy Center against SBC teams.

Earlier in the season, MT played non-conference games that created a slight struggle.

But, the Lady Raiders made a come-back with a five-game winning streak, beating teams like South Alabama, Troy, Louisiana-Lafayette, New Orleans and Florida International.

Meanwhile, some Lady Raiders made history for this season. Chrissy Givens, Krystle Horton and Tia Stovall are three returning starters who all have 1,000 career points.

"I'm real pleased with our athletes because they're not out there to be the referees or draw attention to themselves," Insell said. "They are out there to play basketball. They don't have attitudes. Our players have a passion for the game and they want to win every game they play. I'm fortunate to have those types of players."

Givens received coverage in the USA Today because she is third in the nation and first in the SBC in scoring.

"Givens is going to get her points and she's going to get her steals," Insell said. "A lot of good things are happening to Chrissy. It's good because she has put in a lot of effort from high school to college."

"She's a team player and she's reaping what has sowed. I promise you the last thing on her mind is scoring."

Murphy Center overrun by SBC

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The Murphy Center is about to be shown nationwide this week. The 2006 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Tournament will be coming to campus beginning on Thursday.

This will be the first time that MTSU has hosted the tournament.

The men's finals will be on Mar. 7th at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN2, with the women's finals at 3:00 p.m. on ESPN+ and ESPNU.

"I think it is a huge opportunity; it's the largest on-campus basketball tournament in America," Athletic Director Chris Massaro said. "It's a chance for Murfreesboro and MT to be an integral part of March Madness."

All 11 universities in the SBC will be represented, as 22 teams will come to Murfreesboro from cities as far as Miami and Denver.

This year the fans have come out to see the Blue Raiders in both men's and women's action.

Currently, the women's team

leads the Sun Belt in attendance, while the men's team is in second. This was even before more than 7,000 came to the men's Western Kentucky game last week.

Both the game's and women's team are glad to have the tournament come back to the Murphy Center.

"It means a lot," MT head men's basketball coach Kermit Davis said. "It's great for our area, great for our fans. To have 22 teams, and have national television around Middle Tennessee campus is fantastic."

The women's team sees being a host as an advantage, especially since they have only lost once at home this season.

"The advantage purely has to do with us, because we play so good at home," head women's basketball coach Rick Insell said. "We don't have to stay at a hotel; we get to stay in our own dorm rooms, in our own apartments. Our routine isn't going to change that much."

During the week, the university is trying to break the all-time attendance mark for the SBC tourna-

ment. "Hopefully, we'll break all the records in the attendance, with men's and women's combined," Davis said.

The SBC tournament has been known for being unpredictable, and this year should be no different.

Before the season started, the Louisiana-Lafayette men's team was picked to finish first in the SBC Western Division. However, the two-time defending champions have fallen to third in the standings with a record of 11-15, 6-8.

On the other hand, South Alabama was picked to finish fourth in the same division, but is in first with a record of 20-6, 11-3.

The women's side is also wide-open, according to MT women's head coach Rick Insell.

"The teams are so well-balanced," Insell said. "I hate to pick the two women's teams that [are] going to playing in the finals of our conference tournament. You've got 11 teams, nine of them are capable. Anything can happen."

WOMEN'S EAST DIVISION

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (22-5, 12-2)

This team is the four-time Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division Champion, with Lady Topper's Crystal Kelley leading the way. She has been averaging 20.1 points per game; the 6-foot-3-inch sophomore is their leading scorer. She was named the Sun Belt conference freshman of the year in 2005. Western Kentucky is the number one seed in the East heading into the tournament.

Arkansas State Lady Indians (13-14, 7-7)

The Lady Indians are the fourth seed in the East heading into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. They are going into the tournament riding a two-game winning streak. The Lady Indians will face fifth seed Troy on Thursday.

Arkansas Little-Rock Lady Trojans (13-14, 5-9)

They are the fifth seed in the West going into the tournament. Freshman forward Renee Renz finished the season by recording her ninth double-double of the year.

Florida-International Lady Golden Panthers (14-11, 8-5)

Lasma Jekabsone, a 6-foot-3-inch junior center is FIU's leading scorer averaging 14.9 points per game.

WOMEN'S WEST DIVISION

South Alabama Lady Jaguars (14-13, 8-7)

South Alabama is the fourth seed in the West. JoAnna Williams, 5-foot-10-inch senior guard is the Lady Jaguars leading scorer. She averaged 15.9 points per game for the 2005-2006 season. South Alabama will open the tournament Thursday against Arkansas Little-Rock.

Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (17-9, 7-7)

The leading scorer for the Ragin' Cajuns is 6-foot-1-inch junior forward Yolanda Jones averaging 18.0 points per game. 5-foot-9-inch senior guard, Onna Charles is the second leading scorer, averaging 10.4 points per game.

Denver Pioneers (15-12, 8-7)

The Pioneers finished the 2005-2006 season on a four-game winning streak, earning second place in the Sun Belt West. Leading scorer 5-foot-6-inch junior guard Tyesha Lowery averaged 10.4 points per game. Senior forward Venice Adams finished the last game of the regular season with 21 points.

University of New Orleans Privateers (3-24, 1-14)

At last place in the West are going in ranked fifth in the Sun Belt West going into the tournament. 5-foot-6-inch sophomore guard La'Della English is there leading scorer 11.3 points per game.

University of North Texas Mean Green (18-8, 9-6)

The Mean Green claimed the Sun Belt Conference Western Division with their win over South Alabama Saturday. They are the number one seed in the West going into the tournament. Leading scorer 5-foot-8-inch senior guard Erika Bobo averaged 10.4 points per game. Second leading scorer 6-foot-3-inch junior Mia Ajekwu who averaged 10 points per game.

SBC causes parking changes

Staff Reports

To accommodate the Sunbelt Conference Tournament, the Woodfin lot and the KOM lot, (Midgett), will be closed, as well as a portion of the Greenland Drive lot.

Students, faculty, and staff displaying current MTSU parking decals will be allowed to park in the remaining portions of the large Greenland Drive lot during class times, but should expect parking availability in that area to be compromised.

Plenty of parking will be available in the Livestock Center lot, and the shuttle busses will be operating on regular service. Faulkinberry will not be closed for the Sunbelt Conference Tournament.

The TSSAA tournaments will be held on March 8th through the 11th and March 15th through the 18th in the Murphy Athletic Center. The Greenland Drive lots

will be reserved for TSSAA ticket holders. There will be a charge of \$5.00 to park in that lot.

As in the past, team buses will be parked along the east side of Tennessee Boulevard. This will create a single lane of traffic for a brief stretch heading north on Tennessee Blvd.

The Faulkinberry Drive entrance from Tennessee Blvd. will be closed Wednesday through Saturday during those two weeks. Faulkinberry Drive will also will also be closed at Normal Way.

The Woodfins Lot, Maintenance Lot, Horseshoe Lot, Corral Lot, and Jones Field Lot will be reserved for vehicles displaying the appropriate MTSU permit. This will include visitor permits.

People attending the tournament games will be routed to the outer lots on campus including the Tennessee Livestock and Rutherford lots. The Raider Express Shuttle service will run its normal schedule.

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SPORTS

Blue Raiders defeat Toppers

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, in front of the second-largest crowd in Middle Tennessee men's basketball history, the Blue Raiders toppled Sun Belt rival Western Kentucky 80-74.

Earlier in the week, MT head coach Kermit Davis stressed the importance of having a good game from everyone on the court.

"We had more guys play well tonight than we have all year long," Davis said. "We played at home and had an outstanding student body crowd. I thought the enthusiasm just really carried us through the last three or four minutes."

Senior Marcus Morrison and junior Adam Vogelsberg took over the game for MT, scoring 20 points each and combining for nine rebounds. Fellow senior Fats Cuyler poured in 11 points, including some big three-pointers down the stretch.

"It just makes all that practice, all of that blood, sweat, and tears, it just makes it all worthwhile to come out and play like that in front of a crowd like that," Morrison said. "To play with a lot of energy and enthusiasm is just fun."

MT did a complete 180-degree turn from Jan. 7's 80-48 loss to WKU in Bowling Green.

The Blue Raiders found themselves in a much closer game this time around, trailing by no more than five points throughout the game and playing much better in transition. According to Morrison, the team didn't think about the previous game heading into the second matchup.

"We put that game out of our mind as soon as it happened. [Since then] we've become more poised and more mature," Morrison said.

Junior guard Bud Howard played very physical throughout the game, leading the team with eight rebounds to add to his eight points.

On top of the guard play, MT played big inside the paint as well. Senior forward Kyle Young, along with freshman forward Theryn Hudson and junior forward Tim Blue, accounted for 15 total points while allowing just eight points in the paint for WKU.

One of the biggest factors was containing WKU guard Anthony Winchester, who made his first five three-point attempts. Winchester, who didn't miss a three until the final

seconds of the first half, found some opportunities in the Blue Raider zone.

However, when Vogelsberg and Morrison each took turns guarding him, Winchester went on to miss his last six three point attempts.

"[Winchester's] a great player," Vogelsberg said. "Our whole game plan was to stop him and he just missed by a little bit. We played good defense on him and made him force [some shots] a little bit."

Winchester led the Hilltoppers (20-6, 11-2) with 23 points while Benson Callier added 12. Courtney Lee and Butch Jointer both scored 11.

WKU had won six previous SBC games in their final possession of each game. MT reversed the role with the game knotted at 73 with 1:05 remaining. The Blue Raiders outscored WKU 7-1 in the final 54 seconds of regulation to guarantee the victory.

"I think we were a little too confident thinking we were going to win but it didn't happen that way," Jointer said.

The win assures MT (15-11, 7-6) its fourth-straight winning season under Coach Davis, the first time that has happened since 1986-89.

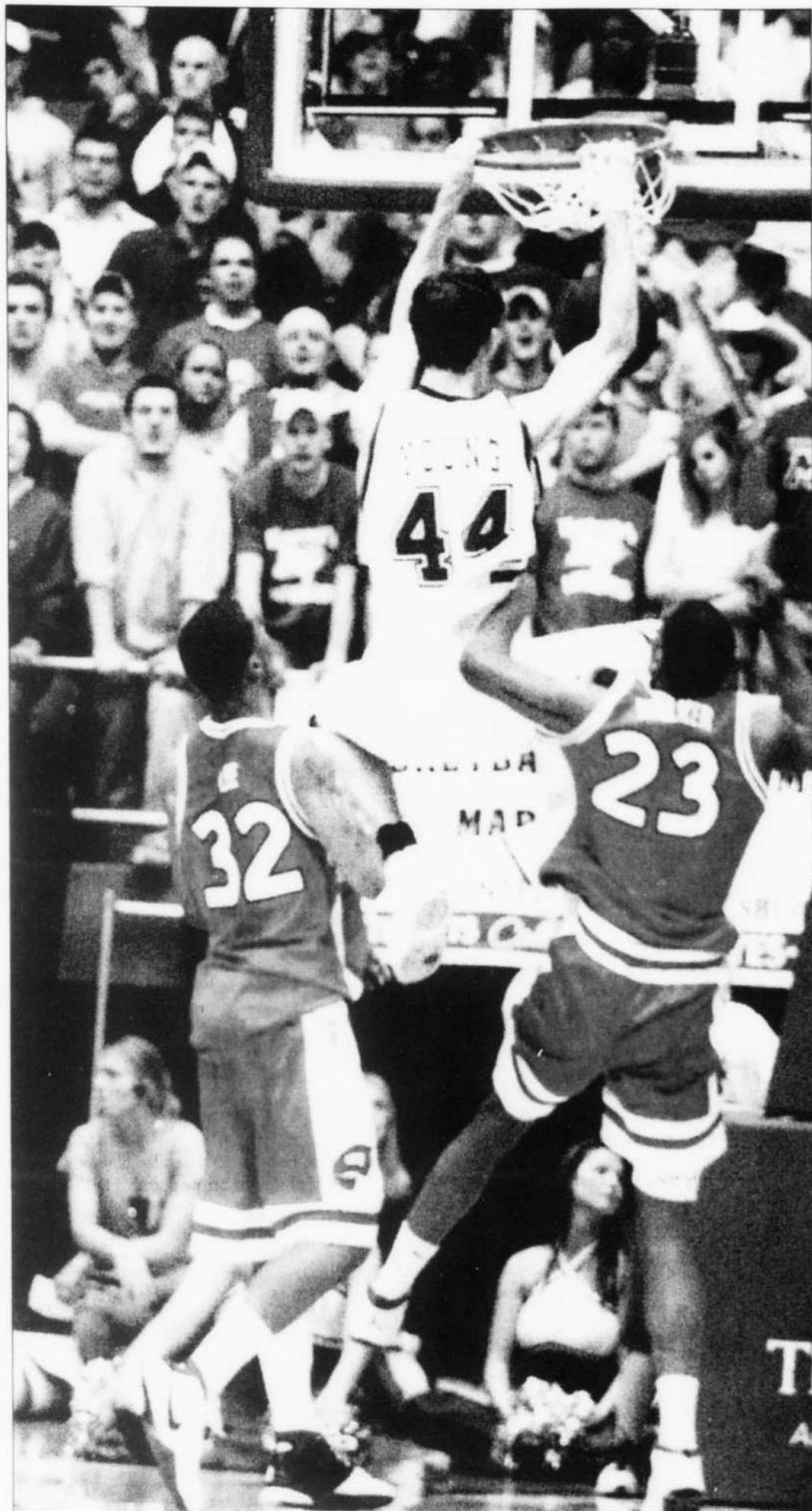


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
MT forward Kyle Young slams it home during the team's home victory against Western Kentucky. Young and his teammates lead MT to the 80-74 victory in front of nearly 8,000 fans.

Men's track in first at SBC

By David Huner
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's and women's track teams ran, jumped, and threw at the 2006 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships inside the Murphy Center Saturday.

Champions were crowned in some events, while other events were just preliminaries. The results of those events' championship rounds, which were held on Sunday, were not available at press time.

After the first day of competition, the MT men have the points lead with 39, while North Texas and South Alabama are tied for second with 35.

In the long jump finals, Juan Walker jumped to a runner-up spot with a distance of 7.40 meters. "I did everything I needed to do, it's just today wasn't my day," Walker said.

JaKeith Harrison was fifth with 7.32, sixth was JJ Strum with 7.23, seventh was Sean Waller with a 7.22 and Linnie Yarbrough was 10th with 6.97.

In the men's shot put finals, Willie Parker threw to another second place finish with a distance of 15.72.

"It felt pretty good," Parker said. "I wanted to make sure I got a throw in the prelims. I had some trouble scratching in the past. I got a little more intense each round, and I was able to get a big one at the end."

Julius Defour finished sixth in the high jump. James Thomas was third with a distance of 15.67, and Nick Diel placed in 10th with 13.34.

Julius Defour finished sixth in the high jump. In the men's 3000-meter run, Jonathan Guillou ran to a fifth place finish with a time of 8:40.68.

The foursome of Tony Carufe, Jeremy Turner,

See Men's Track, 12

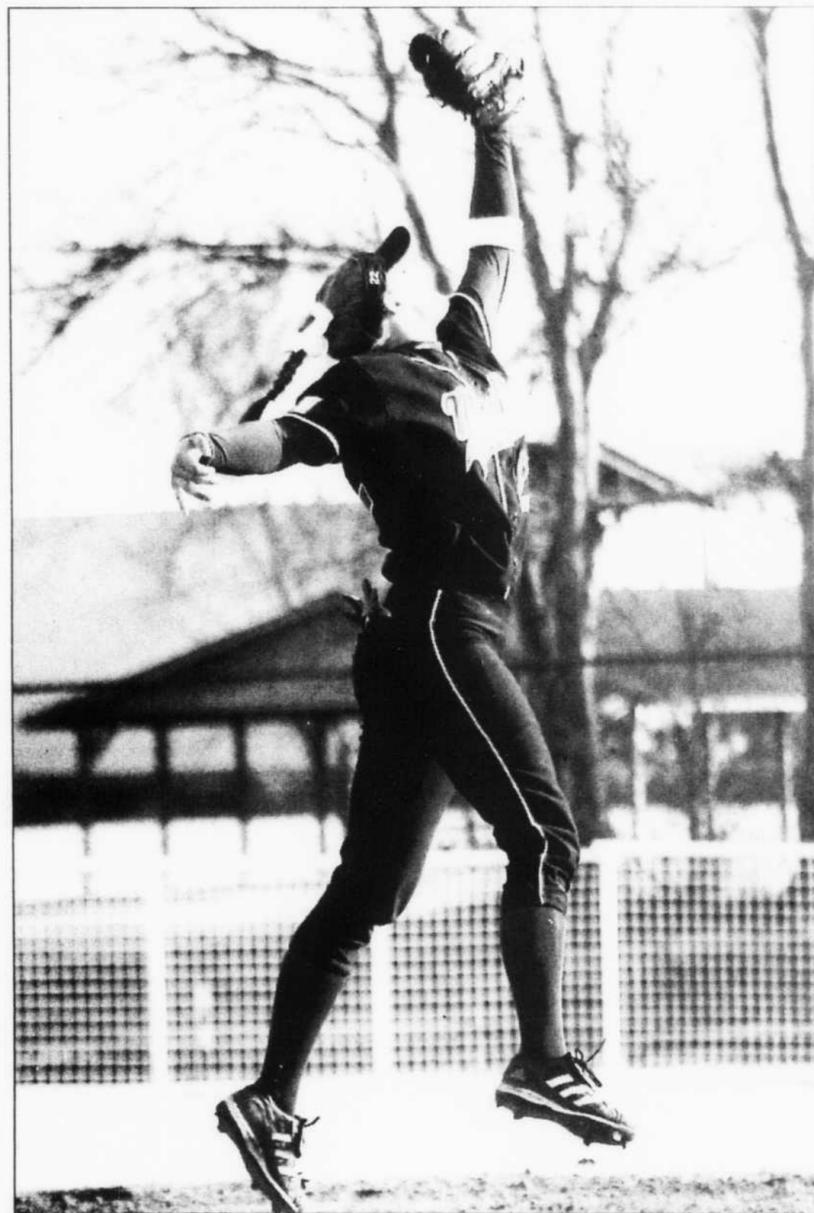


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

The Middle Tennessee softball team finished the MT Breast Cancer Strikeout Classic with a record of 1-3 during their four games played.

MT beats Lipscomb in Breast Cancer Classic

By David Hunter and Jill Davis
Staff Writers

The Middle Tennessee softball team began the 2006 MT Breast Cancer Strikeout Classic with a 4-3 victory over Lipscomb at the Murfreesboro Star Plex Friday evening.

"Well, it was another stressful game for the Blue Raiders," MT head coach Leigh Podlesny said. "We are in the midst of a lot of very tight games, and I think it's probably a good thing because it teaches you a lot of lessons early on in the season."

The Bisons struck first in the top of the third, when Julia Davidson doubled to right field. She scored when Alysha Forsythe singled.

In the bottom of the inning, the Blue Raiders went on a power surge, scoring four runs. After MT's Melissa Weiland struck out, Shelby Stiner crushed a Sara Meek pitch over the fence to tie the score.

"It felt good, it was good to get the team going, because we really needed to get a good start," MT shortstop Shelby Stiner said. "I just needed to prove it to everyone and to myself that I could do it."

It was Stiner's first career home run as a Blue Raider.

Blue Raiders Michelle Wilkes and Justine Cerda each singled, and then advanced to second and third on a Samantha Floyd ground out. Wilkes came home

and gave MT the lead for good on a wild pitch by Meek. Murial Ledbetter walked. MT pitcher Trish White knocked home the third run of the inning with a single that scored Cerda.

The final run came on a double by pitch hitter Katie Mielke that brought home Ledbetter. White tried to score, but was caught on a rundown and tagged out.

Lipscomb cut the MT advantage to one in the top of the fourth inning, when Niki Bails singled in two runs to make the score 4-3.

MT's Laura Moore pitched in relief for an inning, and then White stepped back in to close the door. It was White's first win of the season. She gave up nine hits and three runs in six innings of work, improving her record to 1-2 on the season.

The Blue Raiders improved to 2-6 and got revenge on the Bisons. In last week's War Eagle Classic, Lipscomb defeated MT 9-3.

MT did not do anything differently from the first meeting, but had a long discussion during the practice the day before the win, according to both Stiner and Podlesny.

"I don't really think it's about the other team as much as it's about ourselves," Podlesny said. "Yesterday, we had a very long conversation with the group and the girls decided they just got to do it, they got to play to their

potential."

Stiner went 2-for-3 with one run scored and an RBI. Eight of the 10 Blue Raiders got at least one hit, and five of those went for extra bases.

Saturday, the Blue Raiders dropped both games to move their record to 2-8 overall. The team found itself on the wrong end of a 6-2 decision with Tennessee-Martin and a 9-1 loss to Syracuse.

Laura Moore was first to take the mound against UTM and the Blue Raiders took a 1-0 lead. UTM came back in the third inning to tie the game. The Skyhawks rallied for two more in the top of the fifth to take the lead 3-1.

The Blue Raiders pulled within one run in the bottom of the fifth. However, UTM took control, though, and added three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. MT never made a comeback.

Moore went for three innings until Trish White took the mound in the fourth and took the loss. She is now 1-3 for the season. MT had only two hits in the game from Michelle Wilkes and Kristine Reed.

MT started the game off against Syracuse with a homerun by Reed, her fourth this season. This was the Blue Raiders' only run, however, as the team managed only two hits in the game.

See Softball, 12

OPINIONS

Kurita deserves second look for U.S. Senate race

By Matthew Hurtt

Hurtt Pride

I would first like to thank my editor, Tim Hill, for assigning me the gay marriage piece last week. As it is our job to increase readership, I do believe last Monday's edition could be considered a success.

Secondly, I would like to say that it was so interesting reading all the e-mails from people calling me a narrow-minded pro-Nazi bigot. It is so great that in America you can be pro-gay marriage, pro-abortion and pro-"moral relativism," but you can not be Christian. To the people who wrote negative e-mails: thank you for showing me how truly narrow-minded liberals actually are.

Last week, my friend Brian and I had the opportunity to spend a day in Nashville. We worked closely with local senators and representatives. We got to learn more about the political process. I was able to meet and talk to State Senator Rosalind Kurita about issues that are currently affecting Tennessee. Putting my fascist agenda aside, I would like to inform the readers of this column why Rosalind Kurita is the best choice for U.S. Senate for the Democrats in Tennessee.

Upon pouring over both candidates' Web sites (Kurita: www.kurita2006.com & Ford, Jr.: www.haroldfordjr.com), I found something very interesting. On Kurita's site, viewers can easily see where Kurita stands on various issues. All they have to do is click "Issues Matter" on the home screen; however, if someone wanted to know where Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. stood on the issues, they would most likely

have to go to the U.S. House of Representatives Web site and look at his voting record. "Harold on the Issues," the part of Ford's site that should have where he stands on the issues, is blank.

Ford touts "A New Generation of Leadership," but new is not always better. Kurita's biography is short and to the point, while her opponent's bio dances around facts like an uneducated essay on a history test. Voters need information, not presentation. Visually appealing campaign sites are often little more than that.

Lastly, without going into too much detail, I was made aware that one of the two Democrats running for the U.S. Senate does not always keep personal promises. Which one?

While I could probably write a thesis on why Kurita is better for the Democrats than her opponent, I will allow those voting in the Democratic primary to ultimately make the decision. Once again, I strongly urge you to learn more about each candidate and make the smart choice.

For those readers who believe I am too right-wing to listen to a Democrat, I suggest you examine what I have said and educate yourself on the issues. You cannot always listen to someone passing out flyers on campus, especially if the person the student represents cannot even advertise what the candidate stands for.

For those Republicans who think I have sold out, I assure you that this is not the case. I firmly believe that candidates should be well-qualified for the office they are seeking - that is why I believe in Rosalind Kurita.



According to a National Geographic Kids survey of 273 children, 8 percent said George W. Bush was their favorite commander in chief.

Frivolous lawsuits hamper responsibility

By Jacqueline Willison

Attack of the Friendly Capitalist

This past week there was yet another high-profile frivolous lawsuit filed in our county. A Louisiana man filed a lawsuit against Apple because he claims the Ipods manufactured by the company are "inherently defective in design and are not sufficiently adorned with adequate warnings regarding the likelihood of hearing loss."

Apparently the man is either illiterate or unable to understand the clear warning label on the highly fashionable portable music device that states: "Permanent hearing loss may occur if earphones or headphones are used at high volume."

He feels that he has been sold a defective product that was not adequately designed to protect him from hearing damage caused by loud music.

However, I think he wants to take personal responsibility out of the equation, such as in France where Apple has been making Ipods with a decibel limit of 100.

In comparison, American Ipods have a limit of about 115. Both limits are in range to cause hearing damage, if one is going to listen to them at maximum level for extended periods.

Apple has not released a statement on the suit yet, but I think a highly detailed diagram of an iPod with a big honking arrow pointing to the volume dial would be adequate. Seriously though, one would have to be considerably delusional to sue a company because of a potential problem that could result from the misuse of their product.

People who file these lawsuits either have no common sense, or perhaps scarier, no sense of personal responsibility. If were to use this absurd logic, I could

sue every company because nearly any product sold has the potential to cause some sort of damage.

For example, I could sue my hot water heater manufacturer for making a product that causes water to be warmed up hot enough to burn my skin. I could also sue any scissors producer in the world because sometimes those edges are just too sharp, especially when I decide to run holding a pair.

I also don't think paper companies are immune, as they have not done everything they can to eliminate the nuisance of paper cuts.

Apple should not have to redesign their Ipods to fit to this person's demands. Smokers should be allowed to smoke, as long as they are not jeopardizing the health of those around them. In much the same way, iPod listeners should have the choice to listen to their music at ear-damaging levels. These

listeners should also be willing to take responsibility for the damage that may result.

Although there have been lawsuits against tobacco companies that were justifiable, frivolous lawsuits such as this Apple case are not about making products safer for consumers or protecting them.

Rather, these suits are about harming and harassing companies and allowing people to lose accountability for their actions.

After all, Ipods don't make people deaf—misuse of the product does. If things don't change, then one comedian on Comedy Central may have had a valid point. "I feel it's time we take all of these product safety labels off. We need to start thinning out the population a little," he said.

Jacqueline Willison can be reached at jnw2u@mtsu.edu

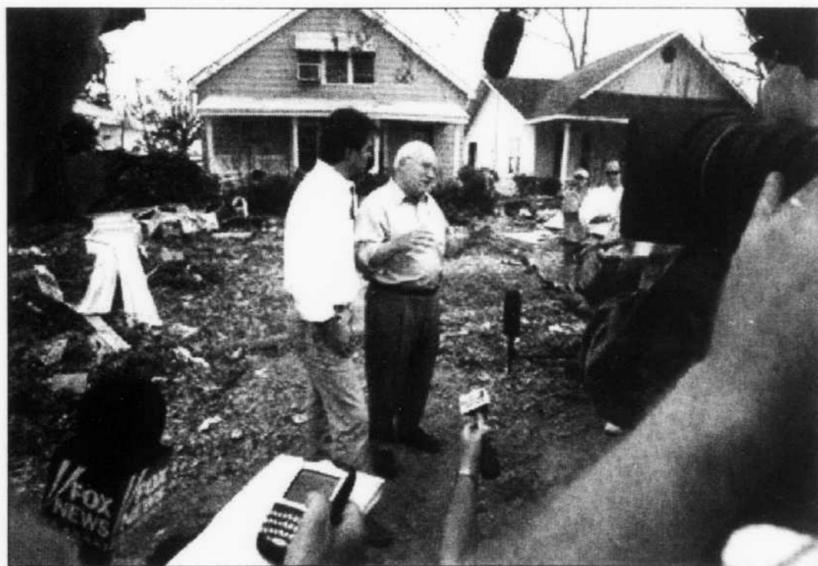


Photo by David Bohrer

"So basically, what happened was Hurricane Katrina pretty much peppered the Gulf Coast in its neck and chest area," Vice President Cheney told reporters in early September 2005.

(This is not a real quote.)

UNBUCKLING THE BELTWAY

The White House released its report about the federal response to Hurricane Katrina a few weeks ago. The report, titled "Lessons Learned," calls on southern Governors to swallow their pride and federalize National Guard troops when the opportunity first presents itself in future disasters.

The report also clarifies certain aspects of former FEMA director Mike Brown. "The President's nickname for him has always been 'Hidalgo,' ever since Disney's Arabian horse racing movie came out before Katrina."

The Bush administration criticized James Lee Witt, director of FEMA under Bill Clinton. "At least our FEMA director didn't have to worry about domestic spills within the White House to clean up after," the report said.

President Bush said that the facts now confirm that nearly all graduates of the New Orleans Public Schools predicted to their best friends two days before the hurricane that looting would occur. They said that the NOPD, Louisiana state police and National Guard units would stand by and let it happen, too. Since Katrina, the CIA has recruited those graduates for service in the war on terror.

Opinions Editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're free to think for yourself.

Reality TV distorts true love

By DeAnn Currey

Staff Columnist

Butterflies in your stomach, walking on "Cloud Nine" and a sense of giddiness are all things that come to my mind when I think of love.

Is it really possible for a person to find that one special person they are supposed to spend their life with in a matter of six to eight weeks, while dating other people?

Reality shows such as "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" have become popular over the past few years. The Bachelor is currently in its eighth season and the lucky man chosen as the bachelor is none other than Nashvillean Travis Stork.

Stork is almost at the end of his five minutes of fame, though. He will choose his "soulmate" tomorrow night. One of the two remaining women is lucky bachelorette Sarah Stone, who is from Nashville as well. What are the odds of that? Could these two possible lovebirds not have found each other without appearing on national TV?

Rumors are swirling that the two have been seen separately at the same locations in Nashville since taping the show. Is that just

coincidence or are the two a perfect match?

Ryan Sutter and Trista Rehn are the only television-produced lovebirds so far who have actually made it down the wedding aisle since appearing on the show. The couple has been married for a little over two years. That is a lifetime compared to the quickie marriages we are used to in the United States today.

The thing I really don't understand about appearing on this type of shows is that all of the contestants are usually pretty attractive people. Why can't they meet that special someone who is ordinary, like the rest of us? If you try hard enough, I am sure you can find your soulmate without acting like a nut case when you are not given a rose.

I find it extremely funny to watch this show and see how upset the "contestants" get when they do not receive a rose. You have only known this person for a few weeks and you're telling me that you are willing to spend the rest of your life with this person?

Most of the couples who do appear on the show have either broken up by the time the show's finale has aired or break up soon after. That's a pretty quick for a relationship that was supposedly going to last forever. Some of this has to do with the fact the network that

produced the show does not want any new couple to appear in public together before their show is aired. That restriction would put a damper on any kind of relationship the couple may have begun.

Call me crazy or maybe a little old-fashioned, but I believe a person's one true love will come to them when they are ready. I don't think auditioning for a reality show is really going to speed up the process. Look at the statistics from "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette": Only one couple has actually gotten married. Those odds just aren't high enough for me to put my life on hold to maybe find someone with whom I'm compatible.

I will concede that appearing on a show like "The Bachelor" could possibly lead a couple to start a relationship. Yet, perhaps the best thing about appearing on a reality TV show would be that it will definitely be a rare story to tell the children and grandchildren.

DeAnn Currey is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
 1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
 Murfreesboro, TN 37130
 Editorial: 898.2337
 Advertising: 898.5240
 Fax: 904.8193

FEATURES

Black History month observed on campus

By Michelle McCrary
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, the overturning of Brown v. Board of Education which ended segregation, Rosa Parks refusing to give up her bus seat; these are just a few moments in history that have defined Black's heritage.

For 28 (sometimes 29) days, the nation celebrates the history, achievements and heroes that have helped pave the way for today's blacks.

The theatrical and musical productions "Portraits: The First Black American Divas of Song and Opera" and "The Sacred Music of Duke Ellington," a lecture on hip-hop culture and a luncheon recognizing black community leaders are just a few of the events that have taken place during this year's Black History Month.

As Black History Month comes to a close, students and administrators reflect on what celebrating black history means.

"Black History month is a great opportunity to share African American culture with students and the community," said Ralph Metcalf, director of Multicultural Affairs for MTSU.

"African American history month is for everyone; we gear towards student and faculty interests and needs, as well as the community's," he said.

Brian Bradshaw, president of the African American Student Association, said he believes black students should remember their heritage year round, not just during Black History Month.

"African Americans have been through a great deal concerning the past, and for us to have a month to remember those great leaders is won-

derful," Bradshaw said. "We shouldn't just emphasize it during just one month, but should always remember those leaders and their contributions to our heritage."

Black History Month events on campus are a great way for the community to learn about African American history, Bradshaw said.

"These events are great because a lot of people don't know about the great leaders of African American history," Bradshaw said. "I think it's great if everyone can learn something new about a different culture or heritage."

Metcalf said he believes black students don't take full advantage of MTSU's Black History Month events.

"I don't think that they take full advantage of our department," he said. "We have a wealth of resources available to students, but the utilization of those services isn't always taken."

"Everyone could go a better job of utilizing resources available to campus and in the community."

Metcalf also said students aren't aware of Black History Month and its meaning, and he believes that the student body and campus organizations could do more to educate the community on Black History Month.

"We need to continue to educate each other on the significance of the history and how we [African Americans] got to where we are today," Metcalf said. "We could do a lot more in the classrooms, within student organizations and throughout the campus to educate the community on the importance of celebrating Black History Month."

Black History isn't a month to be celebrated solely by blacks, Bradshaw said. Events celebrating black history should

be attended by other races, cultures and heritages as well.

"I think it's important for different races and groups to attend these events, as well as African Americans," he said. "It's important for everyone to go out and learn about different cultures. We should never want to stop learning about anybody else's heritage."

Metcalf said he believes enough isn't being done to get the word out about the events.

"People of different cultures and heritages don't understand the meaning of Black History Month and why it's here and why it's celebrated," he said.

"Looking in history books, all the achievements aren't going to be given their proper dues, so we want to focus on those heroes who aren't recognized and communicate that information to all students."

Although many events are offered every year, celebration of Black History could be expanded even further, especially when it comes to student organized events, Metcalf said.

"There aren't enough student-sponsored events for Black History Month," he said. "We want to see events that help educate other groups on the heritage, culture and traditions of African Americans, and to see these kinds of events continued."

The greatest need isn't for more events—it's for a better understanding of what black history really means, Bradshaw said.

"People need to understand the meaning of what African Americans have been through, and vice versa; African Americans need to learn about other heritages and cultures of other ethnic groups as well," Bradshaw said.

A Black History Retrospective

1849

Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most effective and celebrated leaders of the Underground Railroad.

1863

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "that all persons held as slaves" within the Confederate states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

1881

Spelman College, the first college for black women in the U.S., is founded by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles. Booker T. Washington founds the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. The school becomes one of the leading schools of higher learning for African Americans, and stresses the practical application of knowledge.

1920's

The Harlem Renaissance flourishes in the 1920s and 1930s. This literary, artistic, and intellectual movement fosters a new black cultural identity.

1947

Jackie Robinson breaks Major League Baseball's color barrier when he is signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers by Branch Rickey.

1954

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans. declares that racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional.

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of the "colored section" of a bus to a white passenger (Dec. 1). In response to her arrest Montgomery's black community launch a successful year-long bus boycott. Montgomery's buses are desegregated on Dec. 21, 1956.

1963

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is attended by about 250,000 people, the largest demonstration ever seen in the nation's capital. Martin Luther King delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The march builds momentum for civil rights legislation.

1964

President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. It prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Martin Luther King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1968

Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

5.0 grade scale could better reflect student performance

By Mark Bell
Staff Writer

Author Mary Engelbreit once said, "If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it."

This seems to be the way some students and professors feel about the current four-point grading scale at MTSU.

Sociology Professor Ben Austin is among those who advocate changing to a new five-point scale. He says changing to a new scale is definitely something the university should consider.

"We need to find out if there is a more fair way for grades to reflect student performance," he says.

On a 100-point scale, there is a one-point interval, so the person who made a 90 on an assignment really did 10 percent better than someone who made an 80, Austin says. When ordinal categories such as letter grades using quality points to measure performance are used, however, problems arise.

"When you go from four quality points for an A to a three points for a B there is a 25 percent difference in grading and it

might simply reflect a one percent difference in performance, and that is the issue," Austin says.

Grades	4-point scale	5-point scale
A	4.0	4.0-5.0
B	3.0	3.0-3.9
C	2.0	2.0-2.9
D	1.0	1.0-1.9

"In other words, the student who made an 89 is getting a 25 percent grade cut for a one point difference. Why should a student be punished for a one point difference by cutting 25 percent of their final grade?"

Austin admits the change to a five-point scale might look like grade inflation, but counters by saying that the current grading system has the opposite effect of grade deflation.

"It seems to me that the system would reward the people who deserve it," he says. Austin draws his case for a five-point scale methodology with this example:

"If a student makes a strong A under the five-point scale, the final grade would account for something like a 4.8, and a strong B could account for a 3.8. When these two are averaged under a

five-point system, the student would still have the A that they really deserve."

Austin has turned in two unanswered proposals about changing the grading scale to two MTSU presidents, but admits that the reason they haven't been answered is because some major problems could arise under the five-point scale.

"I think the two major objections are that it would require a complete redoing of our whole computer record system, which would be very expensive, and it would be difficult to compare students graduating under the

two different scales," he says.

Students on the job market would be unfairly affected for at least the first four years after the adjustment to the new system, Austin says. A new graduate with a 3.8 average would look like they did better overall than a former graduate with a 2.8 average who graduated before the system was changed.

"Our grades would not be comparable to other institutions," Austin says, "but the point of looking at something like this is to see if there is a more fair way to reflect student performance."

Library's dean works more, loses free time

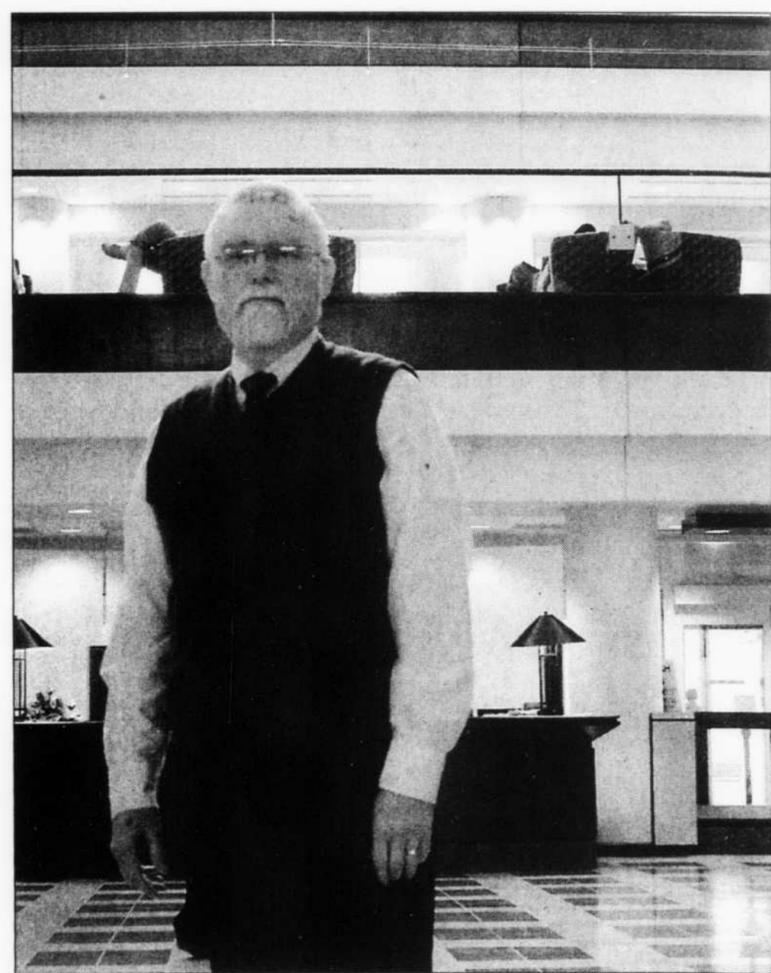


Photo by Adam Capps | Staff photographer

Don Craig, dean of James E. Walker Library, stands in the library's foyer.

By Joshua Hall
Staff Writer

Don Craig, the dean of James E. Walker Library, sits among the library's most important books in a fourth-floor corner office lined with bookshelves of binders outlining MTSU's development.

"[These binders] are the only thing I have time to read," Craig said, joking about the amount of free time his duties consume. "Being a member of the dean's cabinet keeps me engaged in campus projects other than just the library's."

Craig is certainly no amateur when it comes to planning and completing campus projects. He completed his undergraduate work in management at Lipscomb University and later worked towards his master's degree in Library Science at Vanderbilt's Peabody College. While earning his degree, Craig worked part-time at Vanderbilt's Library.

"Working in Vanderbilt's Library taught me a great deal about library mechanics," he said.

By working toward expanding Vanderbilt's library with a new wing, Craig learned skills that would later help him to assist in similar projects at MTSU.

"When I first came here in 1972, the library was located in the Todd Building," he said. "This was fine at first, but as more students began to enroll, a need for larger, more modern facilities arose."

Craig's education, coupled with his experiences at Vanderbilt, helped make him a key figure on the late Dean James E. Walker's

cabinet. From this position, he was able to greatly influence the rapid changes occurring under the dean's leadership.

He has served on the dean's cabinet through some of the university's greatest upgrades. His support of Dean Walker led to more than \$300 million spent in revamping the university.

Some of the most notable projects built during this period are the Business and Aerospace Building, Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, the Recreation Center and James E. Walker Library.

Craig helped design the library by working with architects in laying out an efficient floor plan. With 250,000 square feet and 750,000 volumes Walker Library serves as a key resource for student research.

Despite all these accomplishments, however, Craig's job is never complete.

"I work with teachers and collection management to correlate available material with growing programs," Craig said. "Part of my job is working with the provost office setting up fund-raisers that will appropriate money for university projects."

Fortunately for what little free time he has left, Craig's duties don't include being solely responsible for expanding the library's collection.

"People will usually donate money or even books from their private collection," Craig said, having recently returned from a trip to Indiana to secure new donations.

New additions aren't limited to books and periodicals, however. Sometimes, donations are a little more unique.

"The antique printing press that is sometimes seen in the library was given as a donation," he said. "We share it with the art building where it is actually used at times."

Under Craig's guidance, the library is constantly expanding. The addition of a Starbucks on the first floor is one recent example.

"[Starbucks] came out of a need raised by SGA two years ago, but dining services was in their last year of contract," Craig said Starbucks won out over several other vendors after it won several taste tests.

With an ever-growing student body, having a 24-hour library is the only way to serve everybody, Craig said.

"[24-hour service] is the only way to accommodate everyone, but my priority is to get our funding up in order to compete with the Tennessee Board of Regents library peer groups," he said.

While evaluating different universities' spending, the Tennessee Board of Regents found that Walker Library is almost \$90 below peer universities in per-student spending, Craig said. Peer libraries have 81 volumes per student, but James E. Walker Library has only 43 volumes per student. A key factor contributing to this difference in per student spending is the boom in attendance at MTSU and in the surrounding area.

Whatever the causes, however, Craig said he is working hard to ensure that the library grows to serve students at a level consistent with the size and expectations of university as large as MTSU—even if it means he doesn't have as much time to read.

Native American Festival ends stereotyping

By Tara Fields
Contributing Writer

If the term Native American conjures up images of war paint, feathers, tipis, fires, leather moccasins, peace pipes, tomahawk-chopping and totem poles, you might be suffering from Native stereotyping.

Stereotyping of Native Americans is one reason MTSU hosts the annual American Indian festival; coordinators and participants say the event is designed to be fun, provide information and awareness they hope will lead to less stereotyping of Native Americans.

John Hedgecoth, of Cherokee descent, has attended MTSU's festival several times. He said there is a need for public education about Native Americans, before they begin to make stereotypical judgments "that lead to inaccurate history."

One stereotype started during the settler period of America's history, was that Natives were an unclean and diseased population compared to Europeans, Hedgecoth said. He paints a different version of history.

"Cherokees were and are meticulously clean, [while] white people took a bath once a year. This is the reason Europeans have lyme weddings [right after their bath]," Hedgecoth said. He said Europeans started using wedding bouquets "so the bride could smell the flowers, not her husband."

The festival is largely indented to educate students about Native history and end stereotypes.

Georgia Dennis, MTSU festival coordinator said. She said this is why the festival dedicates an entire day to school children and field trips.

Ron Colombe, Spoken Word artist and published narrative poet, will attend the festival this year. He urges people to have an open mind and educate themselves for the sake of the children.

"If we're going to teach our children to act in a respectful manner," Colombe said. "We've got to start at home."

Colombe, of the Sicangu Lakota tribe, was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He knows first-hand the damage Native stereotyping can do. Colombe said Native people are still being discriminated against today in the Dakotas.

"Civil rights was not just a black and white issue," Colombe said. "It was a movement that was supposed to include us. When I go home, there are stores that won't serve me, and places I don't go at night." He said it is frustrating because he looks around and sees "the way the rest of the world is."

"As long as people could look at a culture, a race, in the terms of cartoons," he said, "The problems behind stereotyping will continue. If you can depict them in that sense, they are not real. How can you take my issues seriously?"

"If you asked the public what a Native person looks like, [their answer would be] a dark-brown guy, with long braids, living in a tipi."

These stereotypes continue to

be used today, Colombe said.

"In modern days, the public would talk about old cars and alcohol," Colombe said. "They don't think about them being policeman, fireman, doctors, or lawyers. They think about Natives in ancient terms, not modern ones."

Native stereotyping is highly prevalent in athletics, Hedgecoth said. People don't understand why it is offensive when inaccurate, even negative portrayals, are used by the sports teams, particularly their mascots.

"Picture this," Hedgecoth said, "you're sitting at the New Orleans Saints' game. The mascot runs on the field, dressed in a black rope, swinging around a crucifix. Does this seem ethical to you?"

Former MTSU Native American Religion Professor and Native American advocate, Tom Kunesh, said he believes some of the stereotypes of Native Americans in this part of the country come from people who claim to be of a specific heritage even though they are not.

"For the wanna-be's," Kunesh explained, "pride is created for people lacking it. Since [Tennessee] is racially cleansed land, it's a lot easier for wanna-be's to sprout up and be taken seriously."

Kunesh said MTSU festival coordinator, Georgia Dennis, is faced with the challenge of providing quality entertainment, educators, and vendors for the event who can demonstrate true history without turning the Powwow itself into a stereotype.

Both Kunesh and Colombe

agree the public should be careful not to forget that what is seen at a Powwow is only a re-creation of history or "a showcase of old traditional ways," Colombe said.

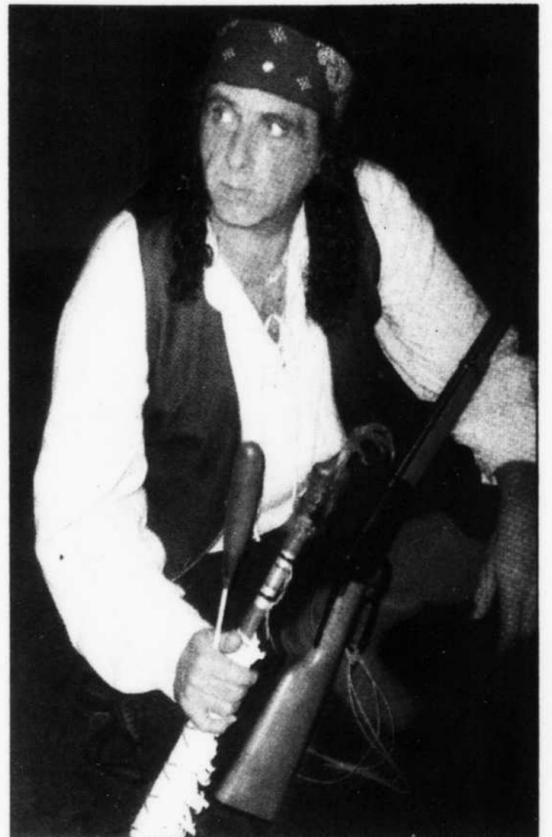
"What happens is that the public that comes are largely uneducated about the Native culture and they bring that with them to the festival," Colombe said. "Like most people, they see what they want to see."

Stereotyping can occur when the general public does not see what happens after the Powwow. They don't imagine when the demonstrators, educators and entertainers of the Powwow change out of buckskins and feathers into their normal attire of blue jeans and cowboy boots, Colombe said.

"If a [Native American] went to an Oktoberfest celebration and everyone's drinking beer and dancing," Colombe said. "No one would ever assume that's how they are always. [The festival] is a way for Native people to keep in contact with their traditional ways. However, when you come to a Native American festival, people always assume that's the way we are everyday."

"Understanding Indians [today] from going to a Powwow is like understanding what it's like to be black by watching the Cosby Show," Kunesh said. "Powwows are not there [solely] to answer people's questions. Instead, they are to get people to ask more questions."

The Seventh Annual American Indian Festival, which was originally inspired by a former MTSU anthropology student, has contin-



Submitted photo
John Hedgecoth, of Cherokee descent, has attended MTSU's festival several times. He said there is a need for public education about Native Americans, before they begin to make stereotypical judgments.

ued to grow each year.

"Festivals like this exist all over the country," Dennis said. "We [MTSU] didn't invent them. We're the youngsters. We have to

prove to the folks that we know how to act, that we know how to be respectful and we know how to keep politics out. There are growing pains you go through."

Kiowa Gourd Dance to be performed at pow-wow

By Mark Emery
Contributing Writer

This year will mark the first time the Kiowa Gourd Dance will be performed at the annual MTSU Native American Festival.

The Gourd dance is a social dance that provides a chance for American Indians to show respect for their ancestors and culture.

"The Native community kept saying over time that they would like to see us do the Gourd Dance," said Georgia Dennis, festival coordinator.

The gourd dance originated with the Kiowa Indians in the early 1700's, according to Joseph Bohanon, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and this year's head gourd dancer.

The tribe passed the dance to other tribes over the years.

Bohanon said he was taught the dance by a Kiowa Indian and for the past two years, has per-

formed it at more than 15 festivals.

The dance starts with the head gourd dancer and others, mainly American Indian elders and leaders, coming into the arena and forming a circle. Once the circle forms, the head dancer begins the dance, said Bohanon, who has participated in festival dancing for the past 10 years.

The people forming the circle dance in place as the leader moves to the center. Then, they dance to the drumbeats while shaking their rattles.

Bohanon said the rattles used to be made from gourds, but now are usually made of a small canister with handles on them and beads and horsehair on the end of the handles.

Bohanon said one reason for the change from traditional gourds to canisters is that the dance has become more "social." He said traditional gourd rattles are now mainly used in ceremonies for Native American

churches and private ceremonies.

"It is important that people know they are not just songs," said Bohanon, referring to the rattle music. "Each one has meaning to the dance and song."

The gourd dance includes four sets of song, with four songs in each set. The leader gets everyone

involved by inviting them to dance in the center of the circle at certain points during the songs.

"I have certain songs that I prepare. I want things to have a good feeling," Bohanon said. "I want to show this is out of respect for the past and giving tribute to our ancestors and cul-

ture. I am calling to respect and honor those who come to the circle."

Dennis decided on Bohanon to lead the dance, because she likes the "intangibles" he brings to the dance.

"He involves more people, makes it more social and that

appealed to me," Dennis said. "He can also bring knowledge with it because he's an educator."

Bohanon will lead the gourd dance three times during the festival. The dance takes place at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on March 4. Bohanon will perform the dance once at 11 a.m. on March 5.

Royalty to hold pageant at festival

By Lemon Keith
Contributing Writer

MTSU Royalty Ambassadors, selected as American Indian "Powwow Royalty," will perform at this year's American Indian festival and promote good will.

The ambassadors are chosen from an MTSU pageant held at MTSU every year.

Georgia Dennis, coordinator of the American Indian festival, said it is important to find young ladies who are familiar with traditional native dancing, good at public speaking and knowledgeable enough to educate the public about the Indian festival and American Indian tradition. Dennis said the main goal of the pageant is to find "respectful young ladies of different nations who perform what is in [their] hearts."

The contest is divided into age categories: Miss MTSU, Junior Miss MTSU and Little Miss MTSU. Judges are American Indians whose responsibilities include evaluating contestants based on their poise, attitude and sense of responsibility.

Dennis said she thinks centering the basis of the competition around knowledge and tribal traditions "is certainly better than [the contestants] batting their eyelashes."

Eveningwear and bathing suit competitions are not part of the royalty pageant. Instead, the contestants wear traditional hand-

made native clothing "made with thought and prayer," said Bessie Jollie, a previous judge at several MTSU pageants and powwows.

Jollie said she judges the event differently than she does any other type of pageant.

"It is not important that [the participants] are pretty or attractive, but it is important how they treat each other and their heritage," Jollie said.

For the MTSU Royalty Ambassador Pageant, judges want to know that participants will be able to help raise money for the scholarship fund. They also look for participants who speak well in public, know the history of their tribe or nation and whether or not they can speak their native language.

Activities such as formation singing common in contemporary pageants are replaced with authentic tribal dances in this pageant. The participants also interact with each other and their elders throughout the competition.

"After they dance, ambassadors introduce themselves, tell where they are from and why they want to represent MTSU," Jollie said.

By observing the participants without their knowledge, the judges see how the participants treat each other and their heritage. According to Jollie, the participants know the judges are there, but do not know who they are until they participate in personal interviews with them.

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SPORTS

MT topples Gamecocks

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Solid pitching by Matt Scott and Langdon Stanley combined with four hits from Wayne Kendrick helped the Blue Raider baseball team capture a 6-2 weekend victory over Jacksonville State during the week-end.

Middle Tennessee scored six runs on 14 hits and four JSU errors to win their second season opener in three years. JSU fell to 1-4 and 0-2 at Rudy Abbott Field on Friday night.

Scott finished the evening pitching 5 2-3 innings to win his first game of the season and his seventh straight going back to 2005. He allowed only one run and five hits before newcomer Stanley received his first save after pitching 3 1-3 innings, allowing a run on two hits and striking out seven.

Kendrick singled three times, stole a base and scored four runs, while Adam Warren added three hits and drove in two runners to help lead the Blue Raider offense.

"We had some timely hits," head coach Steve Peterson said. "Josh Horn and Wayne Kendrick played well tonight. Adam Warren and Nathan Hines had some big two-out hits that allowed us to extend our lead."

The Blue Raiders struck early, including four hits and a couple of runs knocked in by Todd Martin and Michael McKenry.

JSU tried to stage an early comeback with the bases loaded. Despite giving up one run, Scott struck out the next two batters to retire the side and give the Blue Raiders a 2-1 advantage.

The Blue Raiders struck again in the third when Wayne Kendrick scored off an error by Gamecock centerfielder Nathan Cleckler.

Singles by Kendrick and Martin in the seventh gave MT some insurance runs to make the score 5-1.

Kendrick wasn't finished. In the ninth, he singled to get his fourth hit of the contest. Kendrick scored the sixth run for MT after a failed pickoff at second and a wild pitch that allowed him to score.

Stanley gave up a one-out homerun in the bottom of the ninth, but forced two consecutive outs to secure a Blue Raider victory.

"Our pitching by Matt Scott was dependable, combined with our defense, which allowed us to win this game," Peterson said. "Langdon Stanley played an outstanding game, despite giving up a home run late."

The Blue Raiders played a double header on Sunday due to rain in the area on Saturday. Recaps of the double header were unavailable at press time. The Raiders will host a three-game home stand beginning Friday against Missouri State.



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

JJ Strum shows off his medal at the SBC Indoor Track and Field Championships. He finished second in the triple jump.

Men's Track: "Wins in SBC"

Continued from 8

Ryan Hood and Derek Dell finished the distance medley relay in eighth place with a time of 10:53.69.

On the women's side, MT is in eighth place with 11 points. South Alabama leads after one day with 53.50 points.

In the women's long jump, Stephanie Tamgho flew her way to a personal best jump of 6.12. It landed her in fourth place.

In the shot put, Meaghan Byrd finished seventh with a throw of 12.85.

In the distance medley relay, the team of Ashley Comstock, Carlissa Shaw, Kerry Barrow and Sara Lunning completed the event in fifth with a time of 13:20.78.

Most of the running events on Saturday were just prelims for Sunday's finals.

In the men's 55-meter dash, VanTonio Fraley, Juan Walker, Derek Carey and Linnie Yarbrough each made it to the finals. Walker and Yarbrough also made it in the 55-meter hurdles. Yarbrough had the top time of 7.37.

For the women, it was Tiffany Owens and Erika Palmer making it in the 55-meter dash. Candice Robertson,

Sierra Douglas and Iceca Epps made it in the 55-meter hurdles.

In the men's 200-meter dash, Orlando Reid had the best time in prelims with a time of 21.49.

Pet Senatus, Fraley and Jermaine Barton also made it to the final round. Kerry Barrow qualified for the women's 200-meter dash.

Reid also had the top time in the men's 400-meter dash with 48.42. Daryl Terrell, Sean Waller and Barton also made it.

For the women, Shanna-Kay Campbell, Antranette Stringer and TraMayne Gillyard also made it to the 400-meter final.

"I got a good start, but the girl got away a little bit from me," Campbell said. "My strategy today was to make the finals. I want a medal, so that's my goal."

In the women's 800m, Marjorie Gombert and Veronica Patterson each made it to the finals.

"I got a good start, and I just kept going, even through I got tired at the end, but I made it to the finals," Patterson said.

Results were unavailable at press time. For full results go to goblueraiders.com or sunbelt-sports.org.

Women lose to Western Kentucky

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team lost to Western Kentucky (22-5, 12-2) Saturday.

In a game where the winner would be seeded 1st in the Sun Belt East for the upcoming tournament, MT lost 70-63, their overall record to 17-9, 10-3.

With the loss, WKU moved to the top spot in the East division and MT dropped to the second position.

Going into the tournament in second place has a few perks for MT. The second place finish will be the highest that MT has ever seen since joining the SBC. With the seed, the Blue Raiders will also receive a

first round bye and not have to play a game until Saturday.

During the game against WKU, the Blue Raiders had a couple of chances to win. The game was tied seven times in the second half, and the Blue Raiders led by one, 60-59, with 4:27 left.

MT had the chance to take the lead further when Starr Orr got a steal, and guard Chrissy Givens got the ball on the opposite end. However, a missed shot led to a field goal from WKU's Dominique Duck that put the Lady Toppers back on top 61-60.

Tia Stovall then fouled Duck, who made one of two free throws to give WKU the two point lead 62-60.

With 1:47 remaining, WKU then went

on a 4-0 run to extend their lead to 66-60.

MT's LaCondra Mason hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to 68-63, but the Lady Toppers added two more free throws and eventually came away with the seven-point win.

The SBC's two top players, who are fighting for player of the year, both put on a show. MT's Chrissy Givens outscored WKU's Crystal Kelley. Givens had 20 points, four assists and six rebounds in 40 minutes of play. Kelley had 19 points and 13 rebounds.

MT will play the final home game of the year tonight against Florida International. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. at the Murphy Center.

Softball: "Play for Breast Cancer"

Continued from 8

on seven more runs to put the run rule into effect. MT could not make anything happen and the game was called in the bottom of the fifth.

White picked up her second loss of the day, giving up seven hits and seven runs.

"Our players are still searching for solutions," said head coach Leigh Podlesny told MT Media Relations. "They are practicing extra on their own and sticking together. This is just a process you go through with tough losses."

Prior to the team's showing in the tournament, the Blue Raiders

dropped a 2-1 decision to Belmont on Wednesday.

The contest was tied at one in the bottom of the seventh, but Belmont's Sammi Parks was hit by a Laura Moore pitch and eventually came home on an RBI single by Renee Beauchman to seal the victory for Belmont.

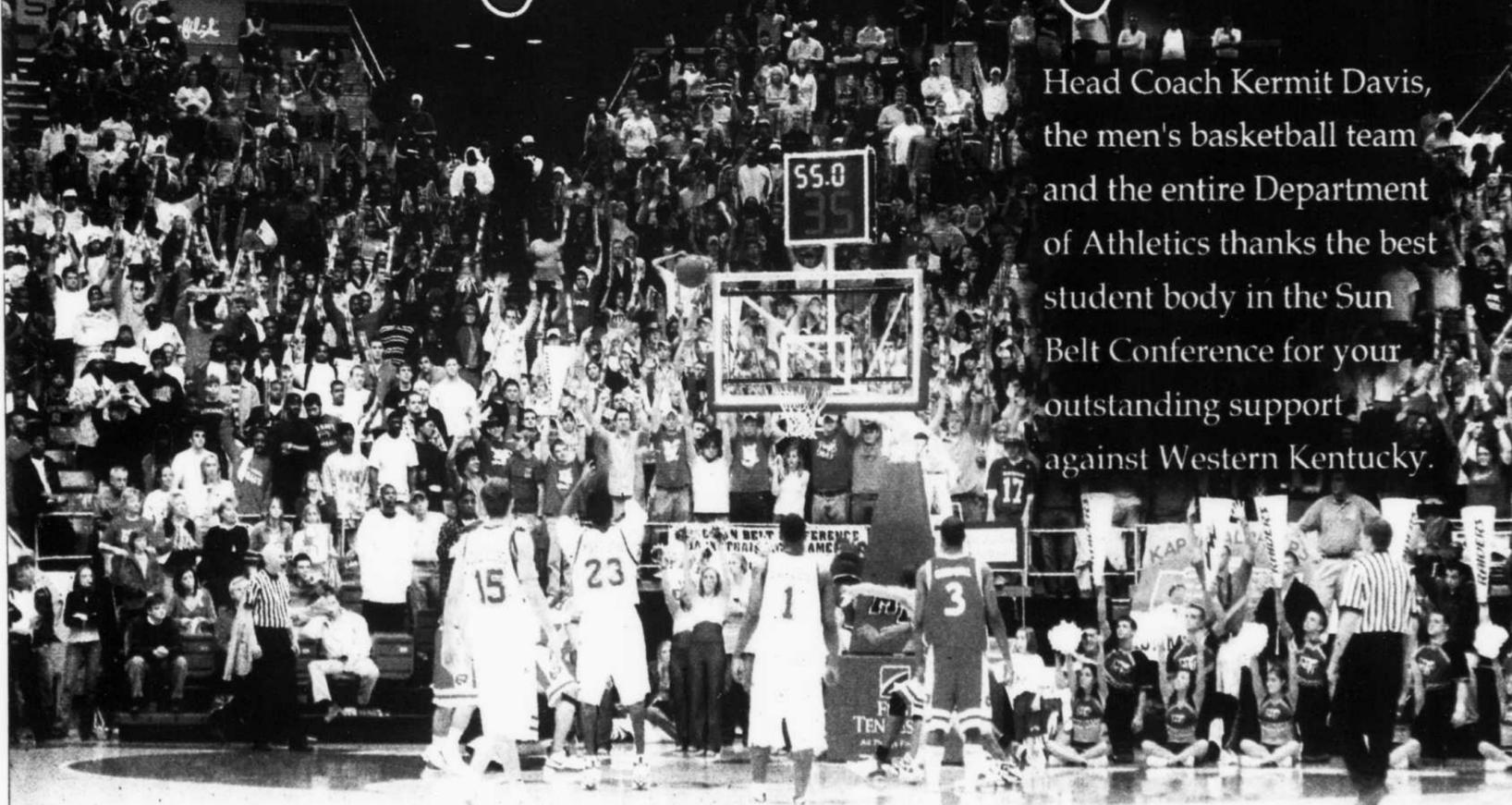
MT's only run of the contest

came in the fifth, when Samantha Floyd ripped a double that scored Katie Mielke.

Muriel Ledbetter led the team's offense, going 2-for-3 in the game.

The Blue Raider softball team will return to action Tuesday at Tennessee-Martin.

*Thanks students for a
Blue Night for Big Red!*



Head Coach Kermit Davis, the men's basketball team and the entire Department of Athletics thanks the best student body in the Sun Belt Conference for your outstanding support against Western Kentucky.

*Tonight is Beach Night!
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