

MURFREESBORO -- Former Cumberland University infielder Jim McGuire has been named interim head coach at Middle Tennessee in the wake of last week's resignation of longtime Blue Raider coach Steve Peterson.

Considered one of the most respected and knowledgeable coaches in the collegiate ranks, McGuire recently completed his 20th season with the MT baseball program -- the last 12 as associate head coach.

"Jim was a very good player for us," said CU's Hall of Fame coach Woody Hunt, "he was a great leader and led the team in hitting. He's done an outstanding job at Middle Tennessee working alongside Pete."

McGuire serves as recruiting coordinator for the MT program and works with the infielders and hitters. He also takes an active role in coordinating evaluation visits with professional scouts as well as organizing baseball camps and the annual 'Boro Bash summer tournament.

During his tenure in Murfreesboro, McGuire has been a key ingredient in making Blue Raider baseball known throughout the country. He has been a part of 13 winning seasons, six trips to the NCAA Tournament, seven league championships, and five conference tournament titles. McGuire has helped mold 57 players who have been drafted by the pros and 39 first-team all-conference performers. The Blue Raiders are 601-502 during his tenure, a .545 winning percentage.

Before joining the Blue Raider staff in the summer of 1992, McGuire was head coach at Rend Lake (Ill.) Junior College from 1989 to 1992. During his stint there, he compiled a record of 220-116, a winning percentage of .655. During his four-year tenure, McGuire's teams turned in four second-place finishes in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference. His 1992 squad was Section III champion and Region 24 runner-up.

"I've had the honor of working with Coach Pete for the past 20 years and have learned so much from him both personally and professionally," McGuire said.

"From when we started in the OVC to transitioning into the Sun Belt, Coach Pete continued to raise the bar of excellence for the Blue Raider program. But it wasn't just his coaching ability on the field that was key to the development of players. It was the relationships he built with them after they left Middle Tennessee that truly defined his career. It will be hard to imagine not seeing that number 25 on the field."

McGuire served as assistant coach at Rend Lake from 1987 to 1988 and began his coaching career at Missouri-St. Louis in 1986.

McGuire's playing career began at Illinois State before he transferred to Rend Lake CC. The final two years of his collegiate career were spent in Lebanon at Cumberland.

The Belleville, Ill., native played baseball and basketball at Freeburg High School.

McGuire is married to the former Lynn Christophe from Belleville, Ill. The couple has two daughters, Kristen and Katie, and the family resides in Murfreesboro.