

Three former greats elected into Blue Raider Hall of Fame

MT Media Relations

With Middle Tennessee moving to a new conference and stepping up to another level in all its sports, it's only fitting that the newest additions to the school's Athletic Hall of Fame be three people who brought Blue Raider athletics national attention.

Brian Oldfield, Dale Short and Claude "Sleepy" Taylor will enter the Hall of Fame on June 23 at an induction breakfast set for 9:00 a.m. (CDT) in the Alumni Center.

The breakfast is a primary feature of the newly established Blue Raider Legends

Day, slated for June 23 and expected to draw former Middle Tennessee athletes and coaches from all varsity sports back to campus.

The event is jointly backed by the MT Athletic Department and the Varsity Club.

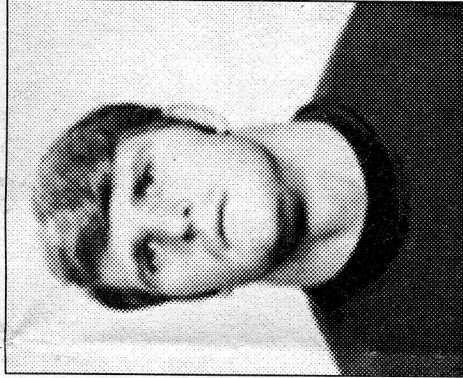
The day's activities include a buffet breakfast (9:00 a.m.), a golf tournament at

Indian Hills (noon) and an all-sports cookout (6:00 p.m. immediately following tournament) at Indian Hills Golf Course.

Oldfield, a native of Elgin, IL, was one of the Middle Tennessee track program's earliest world-class athletes as a nationally recognized shot-putter. In 1966, he set both the Indoor and Outdoor school records that still exist today (indoor 57-7, outdoor 59-2), while earning All-American honors in 1965. After graduation, Oldfield became a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1972 and placed sixth in Munich, Germany. In 1974, Oldfield set the professional world shot put record at 75-0, and in 1975 (September 1) he became the first and only Blue Raider athlete to make the cover of Sports Illustrated.

This past March, Oldfield was named to the Track and Field News Men's All-Century Team as a honorable mention selection. Oldfield's most significant achievement was redefining his sport with the perfection of the "spin technique" used by shot putters today. Oldfield currently resides in Upland, IN, where he coaches track for Taylor University.

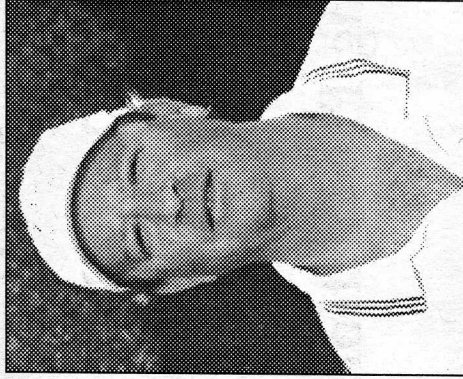
Short, from Miami, FL, played tennis at Middle Tennessee from 1977-80 and was named the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year as a senior. An All-OVC performer in 1979 and 1980,



Brian Oldfield

Short was named to the leagues all-time tennis team in 1988 when the OVC celebrated its 40th anniversary. A nationally ranked player both as a junior and collegian, Short became the head men's tennis coach at Middle Tennessee in 1988.

Under his tutelage, the Blue Raiders have captured 10 straight OVC regular season championships, nine of the last 10 OVC tournament titles and taken the team to four NCAA regionals. From 1991-94, Short was also the head coach of the women's team where he guided them to three straight OVC titles and a combined mark of 66-38.



Dale Short

Short, who has a career record of 87-6 in conference play, has an overall record (both men's and women's) of 288-168 (.632). Short, who has tutored five All-Americans, prepped at Oakland High School.

Taylor, a native of Yanceyville, NC, played for the Blue Raider basketball team from 1975-78 and helped lead the program to two OVC tournament championships and two regular season titles during his career under former coach Jimmy Earle. As a senior he was named to the all-OVC team while leading the team in scoring (18.0) and free throw per-



Claude Taylor

centage (.806). Over his career, Taylor became a member of the 1,000-point club with 1,421 points to rank ninth all-time. Taylor is also seventh all-time in career free throw percentage (.794) and sixth in field goals made (533). The most heralded recruiting prize in school history at the time of his signing, Taylor averaged 14.6 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.1 assists during his career for the Blue Raiders.

For further information on Legends All-Sports Day and/or the Hall of Fame Breakfast, contact Michael Jordan, special events coordinator, at 615-898-5322. ■