

Thursday's Game Notes

Junior Nate Jagers extended his hitting streak to a career-high 12 games with an infield single in the fifth. The designated hitter added an RBI single in the eighth ... Junior Eric McNamee had one hit and scored a run in the contest as well as drawing three walks. The second baseman moved into a tie for ninth with Justin Sims for hits in a season (82) and into a tie for second with Chris Whitehead for walks in a season (47) ... Sophomore Jeff Beachum had a pair of singles, giving the shortstop 58 singles this year, good for sixth on the single-season list ... Senior John Williams struck out nine in the contest, giving the lefthander 107 for the season. With Chris Mobley's 121 strikeouts, the duo becomes the first pair in Blue Raider history with more than 100 strikeouts in a season ... Williams moved out of a tie with Chris Norton and Marty Smith and into fourth on the all-time wins list (23) and into second on the innings pitched list (315.0) ... Williams also picked up his fourth consecutive victory and his eighth win of the year, a career-high for one season, as well as moving past Louisiana-Lafayette's Jordy Templet into sixth place on the all-time Sun Belt strikeouts list ... After stealing just one base in almost four seasons of play, senior Troy Harp now has two stolen bases in his last four games.

Squad Notes

The Blue Raiders have won 12 of their last 13 games, 10 in a row versus Sun Belt opponents and six straight contests in the SBC Tournament dating to last season ... Middle Tennessee also moved to 9-3 all-time in the Sun Belt tourney and evened its record at 2-2 in Mobile in SBC tourney play ... Derek Phillips ranks 32nd nationally in hitting this week with Eric McNamee 21st in runs scored. Chris Mobley and John Williams rank 10th and 41st, respectively, in strikeouts per contest, while the Blue Raiders are 20th in ERA and 35th in Win-Loss percentage.

A Double Dose of the Cajuns ... Again

For the second consecutive season the Blue Raiders will face Louisiana-Lafayette twice in the Dodge Sun Belt Championships. The Ragin' Cajuns eliminated New Mexico State earlier Friday and must now defeat Middle Tennessee twice to advance to Saturday's championship contest. Last year the Blue Raiders won, 6-5, and 10-2, in the first and third round of the tourney en route to the title. Middle Tennessee won 8-6 last night in a very late contest, with senior John Williams striking out nine in eight-plus innings to earn his fourth career win over UL.

Hard Act to Follow for Church

Sophomore BJ Church will take the ball for the Blue Raiders, his second outing of the year against UL. Church made his first start of the year on April 4 versus the Cajuns, getting a win with 5.2 innings of work, allowing three runs on three hits with 10 strikeouts. The righthander is 5-0 this season and has won eight consecutive decisions dating to last year. Middle Tennessee is 7-0 in games Church has started this year, all on Sunday.