Middle Tennessee vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
May 27, 2005
Miami, Fla.

RAIDERS HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE: Middle Tennessee's two victories leaves the Blue Raiders as one of two undefeated teams remaining in the tournament. The Blue Raiders have reached this point in four of the five years in the Sun Belt Championships, reaching the tournament title game in the three previous tries. Middle Tennessee won three straight game to reach the championship tilt in both 2001 and 2003, and lost the Friday night game last year to Louisiana-Lafayette before defeating the Ragin' Cajuns the following morning to play in the title game last year. The Blue Raiders head into the contest, 12-5, in SBC Tournament action, including 9-2 since the start of the 2003 tourney.

COPELAND GETS THE NOD: Sophomore Tyler Copeland gets the start tonight against the Ragin' Cajuns. The lefthander ended a three-game losing streak last weekend with the second-longest start of his career, going seven innings in a 4-1 win over New Mexico State. The Lawrenceburg, Tenn., native brings a 5-4 record with a 4.39 ERA in 13 starts this season, including one against the UL in his only career appearance against Louisiana-Lafayette. In that contest, Copeland worked just two innings in a Saturday start, allowing seven hits and four runs, taking the loss.

TIDBITS: The Blue Raiders and Ragin' Cajuns have played 14 times in the past two seasons, with both teams claiming seven victories. UL has won 2-of-3 in the regular season series all three years, but Middle Tennessee has beaten the Cajuns twice in each of the past two SBC Championship Tournaments. The series has been filled with hotly-contested, tight ballgames … Middle Tennessee won first-round and semifinal contests against the Cajuns in Lafayette at the 2003 SBC Championships. The clubs met three times in last year's SBC Tournament, with the Raiders claiming a winner's bracket victory on Thursday before falling Friday night to the Cajuns. Middle Tennessee came back to defeat UL Saturday morning to reach its second straight and third overall conference tournament championship game in four years in the Sun Belt … The two teams hooked up in a classic 14-inning affair on Friday night last season in Murfreesboro, with Shane Kemp twice tying the game for the Blue Raiders on home runs before UL finally took a 6-5 decision. The contest was the longest by a Middle Tennessee team since 1985.

ARDOIN HAS ENDLESS ELIGIBILITY: UL senior righthander Kevin Ardoin seems to have been a Ragin' Cajun forever and has pitched against the Blue Raiders five times in his career. Ardoin is 1-1 in five appearances with four starts with a 4.44 ERA in 24.2 innings, striking out 22 with just three walks. His ERA was under three under two weeks ago in Lafayette in his final home start, where Ardoin gave up five runs on eight hits in less than two innings. His best performance came on a Friday night at the 2004 SBC Tournament in Mobile, Ala., as he pitched with a heavy heart because of an illness to his father, giving up an earned run and striking out 10 in 7.1 innings, outdueling Middle Tennessee's BJ Church in a 6-2 UL victory.

Ardoin Starts vs. Middle Tennessee

Date	S/R	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Decision
4/28/02	R	2.1	4	1	1	1	1	ND
3/28/03	S	6.1	9	3	3	0	5	ND
4/02/04	S	7.0	8	2	2	1	4	ND
5/28/04	S	7.1	7	2	1	0	10	W
5/13/05	S	1.2	8	5	5	1	2	L
		24.2	36	13	12	3	22	1-1-0

SCHAMBOUGH ALSO FAMILIAR WITH RAIDERS: Senior Kraig Schambough is also very familiar with the Blue Raiders after making eight career appearances, all in relief. The righthanded side-armer has three career sppearances of at least six innings and has allowed 10 earned runs in 26.2 innings, posting a 3.37 ERA. Middle Tennessee finally worked over Schambough in his sixth inning of work at last year's conference tournament, putting up five earned runs on nine hits. The Blue Raiders also knocked him around two weeks ago in Lafayette for three runs on six hits in three-plus innings of work.

Schambough vs. Middle Tennessee

Date	S/R	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Decision
4/27/02	R	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	ND
3/28/03	R	2.2	2	0	0	0	5	W
3/29/03	R	0.2	2	0	0	0	0	ND
5/21/03	R	7.0	7	2	1	0	10	ND
4/02/04	R	6.0	5	1	1	1	5	W
5/27/04	R	6.0	9	7	5	3	5	L
5/29/04	R	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	ND
5/15/05	R	3.0	6	3	3	2	1	W
3.37 ERA		26.2	32	13	10	6	27	3-1-0

BEACHUM HOT AGAINST THE CAJUNS: Junior shortstop Jeff Beachum had a career-series against Louisiana-Lafayette two weeks ago, collecting eight hits in 13 at-bats in the three-game series. Beachum doubled four times and drove in four runs in the series while batting .615. In his career, the Cordova, Tenn., native is 25-for-62 (.403) in 14 career outings against UL with five doubles and 14 RBIs along with eight runs scored. Beachum enters the contest with a 10-game hitting streak, his second double-digit hitting streak of the season.

MCNAMEE RED-HOT DOWN THE STRETCH: Senior Eric McNamee has been a machine in the Sun Belt Championships, collecting five hits in seven at-bats (.714) with six runs scored, walking twice and also being hit. He reached in eight straight plate appearances to start the tournament before making outs in the final two at-bats Thursday night against Western Kentucky. The Nashville, Tenn., native enters Friday's outing on a career-best 13-game hitting streak, posting a .490 batting average (25-for-51) with 12 walks and 19 runs scored.