- CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY A HABIT: Middle Tennessee has made playing in the Sun Belt Tournament championship game a major habit since joining the league six years ago. The Blue Raiders will play in their fifth tourney title contest Saturday, including four in a row, with the club owning a 1-3 mark in the previous four championship outings. Middle Tennessee lost to South Alabama, 11-2, in 2001 and 9-2 last season in Miami, Fla., while dropping a 14-4 decision to Western Kentucky in 2004. The Blue Raiders lone victory was an 8-5 triumph over WKU in 2003. Middle Tennessee is now 16-6 in the SBC Tournament in six years. The only year the club did not make the title game was 2002 when the Blue Raiders lost two straight.
- BEACHUM KEEPS RISING: Senior Jeff Beachum has continued his assault on the Middle Tennessee record books during the tournament, becoming the all-time runs leader and also the single-season hits leader. The Cordova, Tenn., native is 7-for-14 (.500) with a double, home run, three RBIs and six runs scored in the Blue Raiders three games in the tournament, including a 4-for-4 effort with four runs scored on Friday against Louisiana-Lafayette. He moved out of a tie with Josh Pride and into first place all alone in career runs scored at Middle Tennessee and has 177 heading into Saturday's championship game against Troy. With his four hits versus UL on Friday, Beachum passed Josh Renick (2001) and Bryan Peck (2000) on the single-season hits chart and has 97 heading into Saturday's tilt. His first hit against the Ragin' Cajuns on Friday also moved Beachum into first place on the Sun Belt hits list, passing Ernie Carr (Jacksonville Univ., 1985-88). Beachum has 322 career hits going into Saturday.
- PETERSON LIST OF CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES GROWING: Under 19th-year head coach Steve Peterson, Middle Tennessee aims each and every season to win championships regular season and tournament titles. During his tenure as skipper of the Blue Raiders, Peterson's clubs have claimed nine regular season conference championships and eight tournament titles. Middle Tennessee won seven OVC Tournament crowns and played in the championship game eight times in 12 seasons before moving to the Sun Belt, where the Blue Raiders are playing in their fifth title game in six opportunities.
- MIDDLE TENNESSEE VERSUS TROY: Middle Tennessee trails the all-time series, 13-8, since 1992, against Troy after dropping all three meetings just seven days ago on the road. The Trojans have won the last five meetings between the two clubs, including twice in 2004 in Murfreesboro. All 21 of the meetings between the two clubs have come during Steve Peterson's tenure as head coach.
- IN THE TOURNAMENT: Senior Todd Martin leads the Blue Raiders during this year's Sun Belt Championships with a .545 (6-for-11) with three runs and two RBIs. Senior Jeff Beachum is 7-for-14 (.500) with a double, home run, three RBIs and six runs scored for the Blue Raiders in three games in the tournament, while Josh Horn has five hits, including two doubles, and Michael McKenry has four RBIs. The Blue Raider pitching staff has posted a 3.21 ERA during the tourney compared to the team's 5.48 ERA this season.
- TIDBITS: Middle Tennessee improved to 8-7 in the month of May in 2006 with three wins in the SBC Tournament and is now 44-21 in the month of May since the start of the 2003 season ... The Blue Raiders have recorded double-digit hits in 37 contests this season, posting as 26-11 mark in those games. Middle Tennessee is just 4-13 when collecting less than 10 hits in a game ... Middle Tennessee is 22-4 when holding an opponent to five runs or fewer this season and 8-20 when allowing more than five runs to an opponent.