

Blue Raiders Drop 13-3 Decision

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COOKEVILLE, Tenn. -

Tennessee Tech got nine runs in the second and never looked back in cruising to a 13-3 victory over Middle Tennessee Tuesday afternoon at Bush Stadium.

The Blue Raiders got an early run in the second when Derek Phillips doubled to short leftcenter and later scored on a sacrifice fly to right from Clif Thomas.

The homestanding Eagles got nine runs in the second, seven after two were out, collecting eight hits in the frame, including a pair of home runs from Carlos Martin. Ryan Hay leadoff with a single before Martin belted a two-run blast for a 2-1 Tech advantage.

A walk and a hit batter put runners on before Ben Shannon's two-RBI single, as well as run-scoring hits from Casey Benjamin and Hay before Martin's three-run shot gave the home team a 9-1 lead. Tech chased Blue Raider starter Shay Horseman (1-2), who allowed eight runs on six innings in 1.2 innings with three strikeouts. Steven Kines came on to get the final out of the frame.

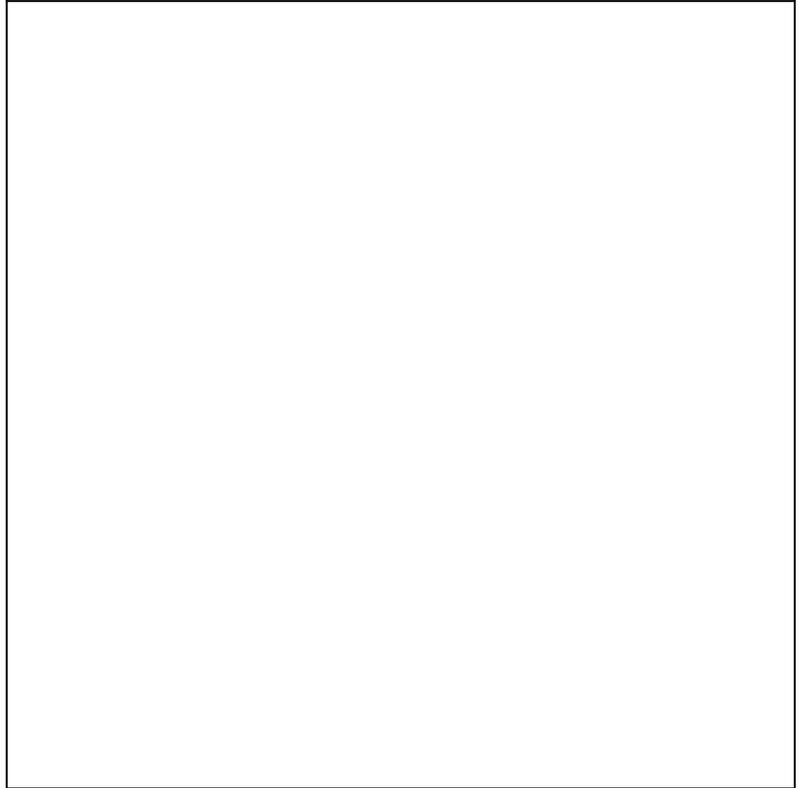
Tech (2-4) added three more runs in the third, including a sacrifice fly from Cole Helms and a run-scoring single by Benjamin.

A Nate Jagers double was followed by singles to right from Jerry Knox and Phillips, scoring Jagers in the eighth. Chase Eakes got the first hit of his career with a run-scoring double to deep center, driving home Knox and cutting the deficit to 12-3.

Freshman B.J. Church made his pitching debut in the Blue and White, tossing two hitless innings, and former Oakland High School product Knox worked two innings of one-hit relief.

Jeff Beachum went 3-for-5 in the contest, as the Blue Raiders pounded out 11 hits in the contest.

Tennessee Tech's Doug Vincent (1-0) went 7.2 innings to get the win, allowing three runs on 10 hits



with six strikeouts.

The Blue Raiders (4-3) hit the road this weekend for a three-game series at Southwest Missouri State, beginning a stretch of nine games in 10 days. Middle Tennessee takes on SMS Friday through Sunday in Springfield before finishing the road swing at Southeast Missouri on Monday. The squad returns home next Tuesday to host Samford two games before hosting Purdue in a three-game set at Reese Smith Field next weekend.

GAME NOTES

Freshman Shay Horseman made his first collegiate start in the contest ... Freshman B.J. Church made his first appearance as a Blue Raider ... Freshman Jeff Beachum made his third start at shortstop and collected his first hit, a single in the first ... Junior Derek Phillips and sophomore Clif Thomas made their first starts of the season at catcher and leftfield, respectively ... Chad Cooper's double in the sixth extended his hitting streak to six games and 14 of the last 15 dating to last year ... Derek Phillips and Brett Carroll both extended their hitting streaks to three games, and Nate Jagers made his three contests ... Chase Eakes' double in the eighth was his first career hit.

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