Softball Closes Regular Season; Wins Series

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Bowling Green, Ky. - Jennifer Martinez tied Jaclyn Story's school record with her 11th shutout of the season in the first game of a double headerr against Western Kentucky as the Lady Raiders closed out the regular season with a split on Saturday. The Lady Raiders won the series three games to one. Martinez faced only two batters over the minimum tossing a three-hitter as Middle Tennessee took game one, 1-0 . She struck out six and needs only 14 more to become the first player in Middle Tennessee history to record 200 strikeouts in three straight seasons. Martinez (17-12) did not allow a runner to advance past second base in either of her two starts against the Hilltoppers increasing her scoreless innings streak to 16. She also drove in the Lady Raiders only run in the top of the first inning plating Lisa Sherman. Ashlie Way was 2-for-3 and Lindsay Azevedo added a double as Middle Tennessee out-hit Western seven to three. In the second game, Martinez smacked a solo homerun in the top of the sixth inning for the Lady Raiders only run, but it wasn't enough as the Hilltoppers scored runs in the first fifth before putting the game away with two more in the sixth for a 4-1 victory. It was only the second conference win for the Hilltoppers and their highest run total in nine games. Preator (16-8) took the loss as she gave up four runs on nine hits recording five strikeouts in a complete game effort. Hilltopper starter, Allison Silver, has earned WKU's only conference wins during the season and limited the Lady Raiders to five hits striking out two. Courtney Wallace was the only Lady Raider to collect more than a one hit as she extended her hitting streak to five games with a 2-for-3 outing to lead Middle Tennessee at the plate. The Lady Raiders will either be the No. 3 or No. 4 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament in Las Cruces, NM, next weekend where they will face New Mexico State in the first round. The Lady Raiders split their four-game series with the Aggies two weeks ago in Las Cruces. Middle Tennessee concludes the regular season one win away from tying last year's school record of 39 wins at 38-21, 11-9 in the Sun Belt.

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