

Blue Raiders Crush Peay, 16-7

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CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. -

Middle Tennessee exploded for 12 runs in the fourth, with Derek Phillips scoring three runs and collecting three hits and Chuck Akers adding three hits and two RBIs in the game, as the Blue Raiders cruised to a 16-7 victory over Austin Peay Wednesday night at Raymond C. Hand Park.

The homestanding Govs got runs in the first and second and led 2-1 before the Blue Raiders got untracked in the fourth, sending 16 hitters to the plate and scoring a dozen runs.

The Blue Raiders started by putting together four straight hits, including three doubles, off Govs reliever Adam Muston. Chris LeGuenec blooped a single to leadoff and three straight Blue Raiders - Nate Jagers, Akers and Phillips - doubled. A walk to Marcus Taylor and a Chad Cooper single chased Muston from the contest without the righthander getting an out.

Jeff Beachum and Brett Carroll both lifted soft singles, scoring runs and giving the Blue Raiders a 6-2 lead, still with nobody out in the inning. Josh Archer grounded into a fielder's choice before LeGuenec singled to left, scoring two more runs for an 8-2 advantage. Archer scored on a wild pitch and Akers then singled to left, his second hit of the inning and third of the contest, plating LeGuenec.

Akers scored later in the frame on a wild pitch and Cooper drove in two more runs with a single to left, giving Middle Tennessee a 13-2 lead.

Archer deposited a hanging breaking ball over the leftcenter field wall in the next inning for his fifth home run of the year and second in two games. Archer had not homered since March 2 and has now had round-trippers the last two days. The sophomore also extended his hitting streak to 10 games, second only to Cooper's current 14-game streak.

Blue Raider starter Shay Horseman (2-2) struggled through five innings but got out of several jams and was the beneficiary of Middle Tennessee' biggest inning of the year. Horseman allowed four



runs, three earned, on five hits with five strikeouts and four walks. Jerry Knox, Danny Borne and Chris Mobley tossed one scoreless inning apiece before Travis Horschel for the final three outs.

Govs starter Devin Thomas gave up one run on two hits in three innings before giving way to Muston, who allowed six runs on five hits and did not get an out.

Middle Tennessee had a season-high 19 hits in the contest, led by three each from Archer, Akers and Phillips. Cooper, Carroll and LeGuenec all had two hits in the victory.

The Govs got on the board first with a run in the bottom of the first. Matthew Ledbetter drew a leadoff walk on four pitches and stole second. A.J. Ellis singled into leftcenter with two outs, plating Ledbetter for an early 1-0 Peay lead.

APSU added to the lead in the second when Brett Luther reached on an error. Luther was then picked off, breaking on first movement by Horseman, but beat the throw to second base. Tommy Smith then singled through the leftside, scoring Luther for a 2-0 home team edge.

Middle Tennessee got one of the runs back in the third, thanks to some wildness from Thomas. Phillips and Beachum both drew four-pitch walks and Carroll was hit, loading the bases with two outs. Archer chopped a single into right, scoring Phillips, but Beachum was gunned down at the plate by Ron Bethke, ending the inning.

The Govs got two runs back in the bottom of the fourth, thanks to a pair of walks and a hit batsman loading the bases. Travis Beech then singled home two runs to make it 13-4.

The Blue Raiders host Florida International in a three-game series this weekend at Reese Smith Field, beginning Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday's contest starts at 2 p.m., with the series finale at noon Sunday.

GAME NOTES

Junior Shane Kemp did not start for the first time this season ... Shay Horseman made his second start of the year and first since March 4 at Tennessee Tech ... Chuck Akers extended his hitting streak to five games with a single in the second ... Josh Archer extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a single in the third ... Nate Jagers double in the fourth was hit first hit since returning from an ankle injury that forced the sophomore to miss 14 games ... Chad Cooper's single in the fourth extended his hitting streak to 14 games ... Jeff Beachum's single in the fourth made his hitting streak eight games ... Brett Carroll's single in the fourth extended his hitting streak to four games.

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