Eight-Run Inning Leads Blue Raiders

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Nate Jaggers' three-run homer highlighted an eight-run fourth inning for Middle Tennessee, as the Blue Raiders defeated Memphis, 10-4, Wednesday afternoon at Reese Smith Field on a cold and windy day.

Memphis led 2-1 heading into the bottom of the fourth before the Blue Raiders exploded for eight runs on eight hits to take the lead and the victory.

Derek Phillips and Josh Archer both singled to start the fourth before Shane Kemp drew his second straight walk, loading the bases. Phillips scored on a wild pitch and Marcus Taylor singled up the middle, plating two runs. Jeff Beachum followed with another single and Chuck Akers blooped in a single in short right, plating pinch-runner Chase Eakes.

Clif Thomas singled to score Beachum before Nate Jaggers hit a towering home run just inside the leftfield foul pole, giving the Blue Raiders a 9-2 advantage.

The visiting Tigers got two runs back in the fifth and the Blue Raiders added a run in the sixth for the final scoring.

The Tigers got on the board in the top of the first, as Chad House bunted the first pitch of the game past the pitcher's mound for a hit. House stole second and scored on a Kurt Welch bloop single to center.

Middle Tennessee (14-18) tied the game in the second when Brett Carroll doubled, went to third on a groundout by Archer and scored on a wild pitch.

UM went back ahead in the third on back-to-back doubles by Welch and Brent Dlugach.

Memphis (11-21) got two runs back in the top of the fifth, collecting four hits as the rain began to come down much harder than previously.

Kevin House and Welch both singled before Blue Raider starter Shay Horseman got a lineout and a strikeout. But Kyle Sledd blooped a single just inside the rightfield line to score both runners and cut the Middle Tennessee lead to 9-4.

Jaggers had a leadoff double in the sixth and scored on a throwing error by UM third baseman Bill Moss.

Horseman (3-2) got the win for the Blue Raiders with five innings of work, though the last frame was in a heavy rain. The lefthander allowed four runs on 10 hits with seven strikeouts. Steven Kines tossed three shutout innings, allowing just one hit, and Chase Swing got the final three outs.

UM starter Erik Filsinger threw two innings, giving up one run on one hit with three strikeouts. Michael Novarese (1-5) took the loss, allowing five runs in five hits in 1.1 innings.

Archer and Beachum each had three hits for the Blue Raiders, while Akers and Jaggers collected two hits apiece. Each spot in the order scored a run, with Jaggers scoring twice and driving in three runs.

The Blue Raiders travel to Jonesboro, Ark., this weekend to face Arkansas State, beginning Friday night at 6:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES

Shay Horseman made his second straight midweek start and third of the season ... Brett Carroll batted cleanup in the lineup Wednesday, the second time this season the sophomore hit in the fourth spot ... Troy Harp's hand right (throwing) hand was X-rayed again Wednesday and the prognosis was a broken bone. Harp will be in a cast 10 days but should be available to play at home against South Alabama next weekend ... Marcus Taylor left the game in the fourth, reinjuring his right rotator cuff. He will be reevaluated on Thursday.

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