Mitchell Hits Game Winner

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Cortney Mitchell hit an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth inning to help Middle Tennessee (20-15, 3-5 SBC) take game two 5-4 over Western Kentucky (20-22, 1-3 SBC) on Sunday at Lady Raider Field. The Lady Raiders won the early game 10-2.

With bases loaded and two hits, Mitchell came to the plate and hit a blooper into left field. The RBI plated Muriel Ledbetter and gave the Lady Raiders the sweep in day two of the four-game series with Western Kentucky.

Dani DeCamino put the Lady Raiders on the board first in the bottom of the second inning, in the second game, when she hit a solo homer over the left field fence. It was her third homerun of the season and the seventh of her career, which ties her for second place in the Lady Raider record books.

Shelly Floyd's two RBI double in the top of the third inning gave Western Kentucky 2-1 as she plated Riley Garcia and Pennington. Middle Tennessee tied it up in the bottom of the fourth inning a fielder's choice RBI by Phillips, which sent in Leah Grothause.

Middle Tennessee tied it up again (4-4) in the bottom of the sixth inning when an error by Western Kentucky allowed Grothause and pinch runner Michelle Wilkes to score.

Freshman Valerie Swanson got the starting nod in game two and went 2.2 innings allowing two runs on four hits. Stayc Preator was called to the mound to finish the game and picked up the win to improve to 13-6 on the season as she went 5.1 innings allowing two runs on five hits and striking out three. Preator was the winning pitcher in all of the Lady Raider victories over Western Kentucky this weekend.

In the first game Middle Tennessee unloaded in the bottom of the first inning with five runs on five hits. Kristinia Hieb lead off with a single, Kip Phillips got on base with a walk and DeCamino loaded the bases with a single. The Lady Raiders got on the board with and RBI single by Erica Buhl, which scored Hieb and Megan Cherinka added a second MT run as she got on base with a Topper miscue. Grothause plated two runners with a single and Cherinka was awarded home on an interference call at third base.

Western Kentucky picked up two runs in the top of the third inning, both on Lady Raider mistakes. Garcia scored for the Toppers on a Middle Tennessee error and Renita Pennington scored on a wild pitch.

With the bases loaded, in the bottom of the fourth, Grothause got her third RBI of the game with a single that plated

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Mitchell, who got on base with her 20 double of the season, which ties the school record for most doubles in a season. In her first hit of the game, Jennifer Dorais connected on a two RBI single that sent in DeCamino and Buhl. The Lady Raiders got another run when WKU decided to intentional walk Hieb to load the bases and then centerfielder Kip Phillips drew a walk scoring Grothause.

Stayc Preator took the win on the mound as she threw the 63rd complete game of her career, which ranks third in the Lady Raider record books. She allowed four hits, one earned run, walked two and struck out three.

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