Carroll, Mobley Lead Blue Raiders in Victory

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Brett Carroll went 3-for-4 and scored twice and Chris Mobley worked five-plus innings to get his first career win as a starter, as Middle Tennessee defeated Western Kentucky, 6-2, Sunday afternoon in the series finale at Nick Denes Field.

Carroll homered and doubled twice to makeup for a pair of hitless games on Friday and Saturday, while Chad Cooper added three hits and drove in a run in the Blue Raider victory, keeping Middle Tennessee from being swept for the first time this season.

Mobley struck out seven and walked two in picking up his first victory as a starter, working 5.2 innings and allowing seven hits. Chase Swing came on to get the final 10 outs of the contest, picking up his sixth save of the year, fourth in conference play. Swing gave up just two hits and struck out two.

Chuck Akers drew a one-out walk in the first and Cooper followed with his fourth hit of the series, a double down the leftfield line. Josh Archer's sacrifice fly to right plated Akers for a 1-0 Blue Raider lead after a half-inning.

The Hilltoppers tied the game in the bottom of the first, as Matt Johnston doubled off the base of the rightfield wall with one out and scored on Brent Miller's two-out single up the middle.

Akers poked a double down the rightfield line with one out in the third. Cooper then fisted a double into left down the line in front of a diving Trevor Keesling, scoring Akers for a 2-1 Blue Raider lead.

Carroll led off the fourth with a double and Jarrett England followed with a walk. After Chris LeGuenec advanced the runners with a sacrifice bunt, Troy Harp plated the run with a sacrifice fly to right for a 3-1 advantage.

Carroll's leadoff homer, his 12th of the season, gave Middle Tennessee a 4-1 lead, in the sixth. The Blue Raiders would add to the lead later in the inning, as LeGuenec walked against WKU reliever

Matt Wilhite. Harp then chopped a double down the leftfield line and Jeff Beachum followed with a single up the middle, scoring both runners and breaking Wilhite's scoreless stretch at 17.1 innings.

The 'Toppers tried to get back in the game in the bottom of the sixth with a leadoff single from Brent Miller. Tim Grogan then grounded sharply up the middle, but Beachum made a diving stop, flipped to Nate Jaggers at second, and Jaggers completed the doubleplay.

WKU got one baserunner in the final three innings but only one reached scoring position, as Swing shut the door.

WKU starter Grady Hinchman (5-1) went 5.1 innings to take his first loss of the season, allowing five runs on seven hits. Hinchman walked three and struck out three.

Middle Tennessee does not play in the midweek and hosts New Orleans next weekend in a conference series beginning Friday at 7 p.m. at Reese Smith Field. Five senior athletes from golf and tennis will be honored prior to the contest.

GAME NOTES

Chad Cooper made his ninth start of the year in the outfield and the first in right this season ... Troy Harp was in the starting lineup for the first time since April 4 against Florida International and just the second time this month ... Chase Swing moved into a tie for second on the single-season saves list with three others - Gorge Oleksik, Jay Lindsay and Dean Hanks ... The win kept the Blue Raiders from being swept in the series and also did not allow Western Kentucky their first sweep of the year. Middle Tennessee has not been swept this season.

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