Jaggers, Kline Lead Blue Raiders to Victory

May 3, 2003 · MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Steve Kline worked into the eighth inning and Nate Jaggers doubled and homered, as the Blue Raiders scored twice in the eighth to defeat New Orleans, 4-2, Friday night at Reese Smith Field.

Kline got one out in the eighth before giving way to Chase Swing with runners on the corners and a one-run lead. Swing allowed the tying run but got the win when the Blue Raiders (23-23, 8-1 SBC) scored twice in the bottom of the eighth to take the victory.

Both starters, Kline and UNO's Thomas Diamond, were very effective through the first seven innings. Kline allowed four hits through seven innings and Diamond was dominant before running out of gas in the eighth, as the Privateer righthander gave up just three hits in seven innings.

Jaggers blasted a 2-1 fastball over the wall in leftcenter in the second for a 1-0 lead for the Blue Raiders, meeting the mid-90's fastball from Diamond and sending it over the wall.

The Privateers (20-26, 4-12) got singles in the first, second and fourth, as well as a double in the fifth, but Kline was able to work around the baserunner each time and keep UNO off the board.

Jaggers also doubled in the fifth for the Blue Raiders only other hit until the seventh.

Middle Tennessee's Josh Archer walked to start the seventh, but Brett Carroll grounded sharply into a 4-6-3 doubleplay. Jaggers was then hit by the first offering from Diamond and Jerry Knox followed with a double to rightcenter, plating Jaggers for a 2-0 edge.

The Privateers got on the board in the eighth, as Austin Wasserman singled to leadoff and Justin Guy hit a soft liner over Jeff Beachum's head at shortstop to put runners on the corners. Joe Pietro then blooped a single into short leftcenter, plating Wasserman and cutting the deficit to 2-1. The single also chased Kline from the contest, as the Blue Raiders went to Swing.

Mike Forbes drove in the tying run with a slow-roller to second base. Chris Adams then hit Swing's first pitch down the rightfield line for what appeared to a a tie-breaking double, but the soft liner fell foul by about a foot. Adams would strikeout looking to end the inning with the game tied.

The Blue Raiders came back in their half of the eighth to retake the lead. Beachum tripled to leadoff and Akers followed with a chopper through the middle to plate the run. Akers then stole second and Chad Cooper followed with a single to right. Akers scored when UNO's Brad Domreis bobbled the ball in right, giving the Middle Tennessee a 4-2 edge and chasing Diamond from the contest.

Kline deserved better and got no decision, striking out six and giving up seven hits with no walks. Swing (2-3) came on to get the final five outs, though the sophomore did blow his first save of the year. Swing struck out two and did not allow a hit.

Diamond (3-3), in his first start of the year after working primarily as the closer for most of the season, allowed four runs, all earned, on six hits with eight strikeouts. J.P. Martinez got the final three outs for the Privateers.

Jaggers had two of Middle Tennessee six hits in the game and also scored twice.

The two teams continue their series Saturday at 2 p.m. at Reese Smith Field, with Middle Tennessee's John Williams facing UNO's Michael Jones.

GAME NOTES

The Blue Raiders used their 40th different lineup in 46 games this season ... Jeff Beachum recorded his first career triple in the eighth ... Chase Swing blew his first save of the year but came back to get the win ... UNO starter Thomas Diamond allowed a run in the second, breaking his string of 13.2 scoreless innings.

Printed on March 11, 2014
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/1993