Blue Raiders Sweep Lipscomb

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Jerry Knox collected five hits and Josh Archer homered in both contests to lead Middle Tennessee to a doubleheader sweep of Lipscomb Friday at Reese Smith Field, with the Blue Raiders claiming 12-5 and 4-1 victories over the visiting Bisons.

Knox went 3-for-5 with two runs and two RBIs in the opener and also had a pair of hits in the nightcap. Archer capped a 10-run fourth inning in the opener with a three-run blast and belted his 15th home run of the season, a two-run shot, in a three-run fourth inning in the second contest.

Steve Kline worked seven strong innings in the opener to get the win, while freshman BJ Church allowed just one run and struck out eight in 6.1 innings in the nightcap to get his third win of the year.

The Blue Raiders (26-24) got a run in the second inning of the opening game when Knox hit his seventh homer of the season, a solo shot, to give Middle Tennessee a 1-0 lead.

The Blue Raiders broke open the game with 10 runs in the fourth, including seven after there were two outs in the inning. Knox singled home a run, as did Brett Carroll, before Nate Jaggers flied out for the second out of the inning.

Middle Tennessee then had six straight batters reach, as Derek Phillips walked to load the bases before Chris LeGuenec's double down the rightfield line scored two runs. After a pitching change Jeff Beachum reached on an infield single and Chuck Akers scored two more runs with a double to leftcenter.

After a Chad Cooper walk, Archer blasted a three-run homer to cap the scoring and give Middle Tennessee an 11-0 lead.

Lipscomb got on the board in the fifth with back-to-back doubles from Patrick O'Rourke and Brian Passons.

LeGuenec's solo shot in the fifth gave the Blue Raiders a 12-1 lead.

The Bisons added four runs,two each in the sixth and eighth, but only was earned.

Steve Kline (6-3) for the win for the Blue Raiders, allowing three runs, two earned, in seven innings. Kline walked two and struck out three. Senior Steven Kines gave up two unearned runs over the final two innings.

Logan Good (3-6), the first of three LU hurlers, took the loss, giving up seven runs on five hits.

In game two Middle Tennessee got one run in the third and three in the fourth and Church did the rest.

Akers singled home Troy Harp in the third for a 1-0 Blue Raider lead.

The Blue Raiders added three runs in the fourth thanks to a two-run homer by Archer and a solo shot from Carroll for a 4-0 edge.

Lipscomb got on the board in the fifth when O'Rourke doubled and scored on a Passons single to center, breaking a string of 16.1 innings by Church dating to April 15.

Chase Swing came on to get his seventh save of the season, striking out the final two batters of the game. Swing moves into second place

on the single-season saves list behind George Oleksik's 10 saves set in 1995.

LU starter Matthew Griffith (2-5) took the loss, allowing all four runs on five hits in five innings.

GAME NOTES

Middle Tennessee used its 44th different lineup in 50 games ... BJ Church allowed a run in the fifth inning, breaking a streak of 16.1 scoreless innings. Church tossed nine shutout innings against Belmont and went three scoreless this past Sunday versus New Orleans before allowing the RBI single ... Steve Kline made his seventh quality start of the season in 12 appearances. The Blue Raiders are 6-1 this season when Kline makes a quality start and 8-4 overall in the sophomore's 12 starts in 2003 ... Josh Archer had three hits in the first game, the 15th time in his career he has collected three hits in a game ... Chris LeGuenec tied a career-high with three RBIs in the opener, doubling home two runs and belting a solo homer ... Chase Swing got his seventh save of the year, moving him into second on the single-season list behind George Oleksik's 10 set in 1995.

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