

Baseball Defeats Lipscomb, 11-5

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee erased a four-run deficit with 11 consecutive runs and got three scoreless innings of relief from Jerry Knox in defeating Lipscomb, 11-5, Sunday afternoon at Dugan Field.

The Blue Raiders (27-24) trailed 4-0 after four innings before scoring twice in the fifth, three times in the sixth, four more runs in the seventh and twice more in the eighth to win their fourth straight contest, their longest winning streak of the season.

Knox allowed two hits and struck out three in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings to get his third win of the year, while junior John Williams, making the first relief appearance of his career, tossed the final two innings.

The Bisons got three straight hits with two outs in the second inning to plate a run and take an early lead, as Ryan Boyer and Patrick O'Rourke both singled before a double down the rightfield line from Brian Griffing gave Lipscomb a 1-0 lead.

Nathan McCorkle doubled to rightcenter for LU with one out in the third and went to third on a wild pitch. With two outs Ben Blumanthal grounded to Blue Raider third baseman Brett Carroll. The throw to first was low when Carroll slipped trying to plant his left foot, allowing McCorkle to score for a 2-0 home team lead.

The Bisons added to the lead in the fourth, as O'Rourke walked and Brian Passons singled to center with one out. Chris Parker then laced a two-out double down the leftfield line, a controversial call, plating both runs for a 4-0 LU advantage.

The Blue Raiders cut into the lead in the fifth. Derek Phillips reached on an infield single and Marcus Taylor dumped a double down the rightfield line with two outs. Jeff Beachum then hit a little pop that fell in front of a diving Boyer behind the mound. One run scored, as did a hustling Taylor from second, cutting the deficit to 4-2.

Middle Tennessee took the lead in the sixth starting with a leadoff walk to Chad Cooper. Josh Archer then singled softly to center and Cooper hustled all the way to third. Knox, who started the game as the designated hitter, then hit one off the end of the bat that fell in short rightcenter, plating Cooper.

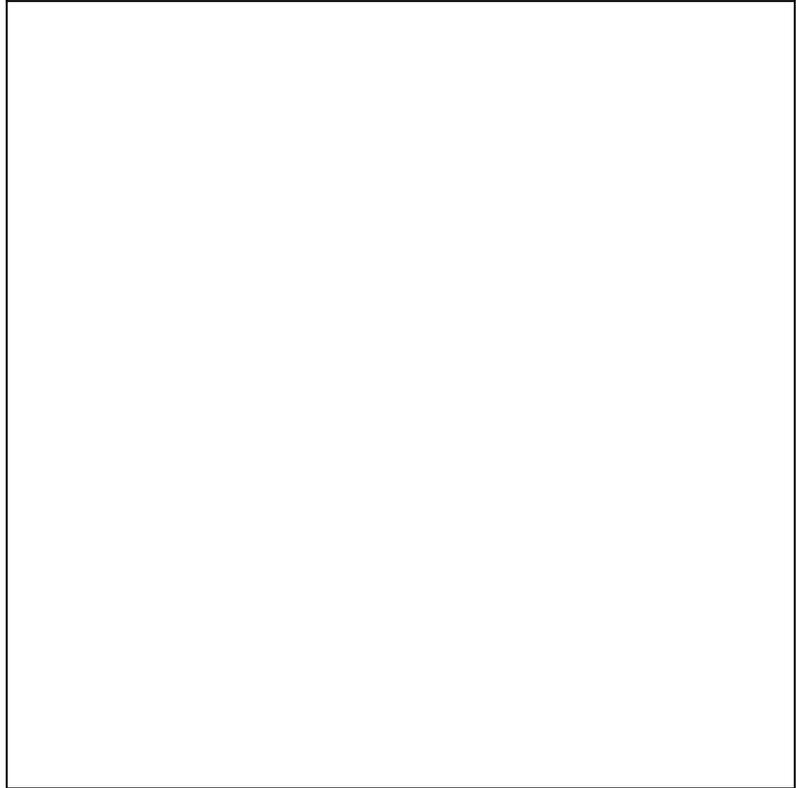
A single to left by Brett Carroll scored Archer, tying the game at four. Troy Harp moved both runners up with a sacrifice bunt before Jaggars plated a run with a sacrifice fly to center, giving the Blue Raiders a 5-4 lead.

The Blue Raiders busted open game in the eighth against LU ace reliever Seth Kuwik, scoring four times with three hits, including a pair of home runs.

Harp hit a solo homer to leadoff the inning, a wind-blown shot that just cleared the wall. Beachum reached on an infield single with two outs and Akers was then hit before Cooper blasted a three-run shot over the leftfield wall for a 9-4 Blue Raider advantage.

In the eighth Carroll singled with one out and Jaggars' line drive got up enough to get out of the park for an 11-4 lead for the Blue Raiders.

Lipscomb added a run in the ninth on Todd Boucher's double for the final tally.



Beachum collected three of Middle Tennessee's 15 hits in the contest, with Cooper, Carroll and Jagers all adding a pair of hits. Cooper also scored twice, while Cooper and Jagers both had three RBIs in the contest.

Blue Raider starter Chris Mobley allowed four runs on six hits in four innings, striking out eight with three walks. Knox (3-6) worked three scoreless innings to get the win.

Bisons starter David Patton (3-6) suffered the loss, giving up five runs on seven hits in six innings. Patton walked one and struck out seven. Kuwik, who entered the game with a 1.96 ERA and just two home runs allowed this season, gave up three round-trippers in three innings and watched his ERA climb almost a run in the final game of the year for Lipscomb.

The Blue Raiders take on Vanderbilt Tuesday at 7 p.m. before ending the regular season with a three-game series at Arkansas-Little Rock next weekend.

GAME NOTES

Marcus Taylor started in rightfield, his first start in the outfield since April 9 ... Derek Phillips extended his hitting streak to six games with an infield single in the fifth ... Josh Archer, Jerry Knox and Brett Carroll all extended their hitting streaks to five games with singles in the sixth ... Chuck Akers singled in the seventh to extend his hitting streak to eight games ... Troy Harp's homer in the eighth was just his second this season and the first since March 15 against Purdue ... John Williams pitched the final two innings in the win, the first relief outing of his career after making 35 straight starts ... The Blue Raiders have won four straight, their longest winning streak of the season, and are also three games over .500 for the year for the first time all season.

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