Baseball Ends Season With 13-7 Defeat

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STARKVILLE, Miss. - Missouri scored three times in the first and six more runs in the third and cruised to a 13-7 victory over Middle Tennessee Saturday morning at Dudy Noble Field in an elimination game of the NCAA Starkville Regional. The Blue Raiders end their season 33-27 after making their 11th regional after winning last week's Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

For the second straight game the Blue Raiders fell behind early, as the Tigers struck for three runs in the bottom of the first on five hits and the aid of two Middle Tennessee errors.

Leadoff hitter Jayce Tingler bunted his way on to start the game. Ian Kinsler then doubled over Shane Kemp's head in rightfield, and Tingler scored when Kemp kicked the ball around. Ryan Rallo followed with an RBI single and then stole second before scoring on Zane Taylor's RBI single for a quick 3-0 MU advantage.

MU added six runs in the third on four hits, as the Blue Raiders walked three batters in the frame.

Taylor drew a leadoff walk and scored on a double to rightcenter by Brad Flanders. Cody Ehlers then drew a walk and Tyler Williams beat out an infield single trying to sacrifice the runners over. Jeremy Hernandez followed with an RBI single to right, chasing Blue Raider starter John Williams.

Bo Davis drew a walk against reliever Chris Mobley to force in a run before Tingler's two-run single to right made it 8-0. An RBI groundout by Rallo plated the final run of the inning.

The Blue Raiders got on the board in the fifth when Nate Jaggers reached on an error and Brett Carroll followed with a towering blast over the leftfield wall, his 18th home run of the season.

Kinsler's single up the middle plated Tingler in the bottom of the fifth for a 10-2 Tiger lead. An error later in the frame scored two more runs for Missouri.

Middle Tennessee had three straight singles to start the sixth, as Jeff Beachum, Akers and Chad Cooper all singled, scoring a run. But two strikeouts and a lazy fly ball got Tiger starter Danny Hill out

of the jam without further damage.

Beachum reached on an infield single in the eighth and Akers was then hit by a pitch. Cooper lined a double just inside the rightfield line, scoring Beachum. Jaggers plated another run with a groundout before Carroll belted his second homer of the game, a high drive that just cleared the leftfield wall, cutting the Blue Raider deficit to 12-7.

A double by Williams and a triple from Davis scored another run for the Tigers in the bottom of the eighth.

Carroll went 3-for-4 with two home runs, a double in four RBIs for the Blue Raiders, while Beachum and Cooper both had a pair of hits and Beachum scored twice.

Danny Hill (5-2) tossed a career-high 7.2 innings and also struck out a career-high 11 to get the win, allowing six runs, five earned.

Williams (3-5) took the loss, lasting two-plus innings and allowing eight runs on eight hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

GAME NOTES

Marcus Taylor got his first start of the postseason and the first since May 13 at Vanderbilt ... The Blue Raiders struck out 12 times in the game, the 18th time the team had double-digit strikeouts in a game.

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