# Blue Raiders Remain Undefeated in Fall Play

## Ledbetter hits game-winning homerun

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**MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -** Middle Tennessee softball (6-0) remained undefeated in fall play with a pair of victories, 3-2, 4-1, over Trevecca Nazarene Thursday at Blue Raider Field.

The hot-hitting Blue Raiders were stymied by Trevecca pitching early in game one scattering just two hits in the first four frames as the Trojans Brittiany Johnson held Middle Tennessee in check. Trevecca picked up some early hits and knocked in the first runs of the fall against left-handed Blue Raider hurler Lindsey Vander Lugt as she also gave up six hits.

The Trojans took the early lead scoring two runs in the first inning. Centerfielder Chelsea Bailey led off the inning and scored thanks to an RBI single by Johnson. An RBI double by Maria Trapani plated Bailey to give Trevecca the 2-0 lead.

It would take Middle Tennessee until the fifth inning to put a scoring opportunity together and what a thrilling scoring frenzy it was. With one out, junior Whitney Darlington patiently drew a walk from Johnson, which brought the red-hot Melissa Weiland to the plate. Weiland hit a rope to the outfield, allowing Darlington to move to third and Weiland advanced to second on the throw.

Freshman Corrie Able struck out and Middle Tennessee was down to its last out in the first game. With runners on second and third, senior Muriel Ledbetter strolled to the plate. The Collierville, Tenn. native, who led the team last year in homeruns, was hitless in the first four games of the fall, but her slump was about to end. Ledbetter hit a scorching homerun over the left field wall scoring three runs and giving the Blue Raiders the win.

Vander Lugt tossed her third complete game and improved to 4-0 in fall play. She allowed two runs on six hits and struck out two. Senior Shelby Stiner and junior Kristine Reed also had hits in the game.

After the thrilling heroics in game one, it was time for the Blue Raiders to turn around and play game

two. Sophomore Samantha Floyd got the call to the mound and again Trevecca took the early lead. The Trojans picked up a run in the second inning thanks to a Blue Raider error.

Middle Tennessee would tie the game in the third inning thanks to some sharp base running. Floyd led off the inning with a single and advanced to second off a sacrifice bunt by Justine Cerda. A single by Abel moved Floyd to third, which put the Blue Raiders in a scoring opportunity. A double steal allowed Floyd to score and tie the game before Abel was thrown out at third.

With the score tied, Floyd continued to be productive on the mound, tossing two strong innings to keep Trevecca in check and give Middle Tennessee's offense a chance to break the tie. Floyd didn't have to wait long, as the Blue Raiders took the lead in the fourth inning.

Freshman Caitlin McLure led off the fourth with a single and promptly stole second. Sophomore Martha Davis drew a walk but was erased at second when Stiner hit into a fielder's choice, however McLure did move to third. Stiner stole her third base of the fall to put runners on second and third for Weiland who hit a two RBI single to give the Blue Raiders the lead. Middle Tennessee added a third run in the inning off an RBI single by Katie Mielke, which scored Weiland.

Floyd picked her second win of the fall and tossed her second complete game. She allowed just one run on two hits and struck out six. Weiland led the club going 2-for-2 with one run scored, a double and two RBI.

Middle Tennessee will make its final appearance at home, this fall, when the Blue Raiders host an alumni game on Saturday. The festivities begin at 1 p.m. as the current players will take on Blue Raiders from the past.

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