Blue Raiders Drop Both Games of Doubleheader

Lose second game in extra innings

March 14, 2007 · David Powell

MURFREESBORO, TENN. - Middle Tennessee (13-14) continued their longest home stand of the season with a loss to the Jacksonville State (9-8) Gamecocks in the first game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Wednesday. Middle Tennessee was looking to build upon on a confidence boosting, come-from-behind series victory over the Troy Trojans on the weekend. Lindsey Vander Lugt (9-9) made her 19th start of the season for the Blue Raiders, giving up five runs on eight hits, while striking out four in a little over six innings of action for the loss. Jacksonville State pitcher Karla Pittman (4-5) worked a dominating game for the Gamecocks, giving up one run and four hits, while striking out five for the win. Ashley Cline led off the MT half of the inning with a bunt down the third base line for a single. She stole second base to put a runner in scoring position for Middle Tennessee. That stolen base made for her 17th of the season, breaking last years individual mark of 16 by Shelby Stiner. Stiner struck out swinging before Jessica Ives got on base on an error by the third baseman, bringing Cline across the plate. This would turn out to be the only run in the inning, and in the game for the Blue Raiders as they could only muster two more hits the entire game. Jacksonville State would collect eight runs on thirteen hits to emphatically win the game, 8-1. Samantha Floyd also pitched for the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee (13-15) dropped the second game of a doubleheader to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks (10-8) in extra innings at Blue Raider field on Wednesday, 8-1. Samantha Floyd (3-5) picked up the loss for the Blue Raiders, working the final 3.1 innings and giving up two runs on four hits. Karla Pittman (6-5) got her second win of the day for Jacksonville State, pitching 3.1 innings and giving up no runs, two hits, while striking out three. MT starter Amy Candioto made her 5th start of the season and got things started off strong for the Blue Raiders as she allowed no runs and no hits in the first inning of action. Candioto pitched 4.1 innings for MT, giving up just two runs on four this while striking out one. Corrie Abel reached on a throwing error from the shortstop and then stole second base before Ashley Cline and Katie Mielke both

fouled out to make it two outs. Melissa Weiland, fresh off a game winning walk-off homerun on Saturday night, singled to left center field to drive in Abel and give MT a 1-0 lead, their first of the series. Muriel Ledbetter grounded out to third base to end the inning. Abel again got on base in the third inning for the Blue Raiders, with a single to left field, then advanced to second base on a passed ball. Cline grounded out to the shortstop and Mielke struck out swinging before Weiland grounded out to the pitcher to end the inning. Daniela Pappano singled through the middle out before the Blue Raider's athletic defense led to an amazing double play - Nikki Prier bunted a weak ball up the middle which Mielke immediately pounced on and threw to Shelby Stiner at second base. She tossed it to Cerda at first base for the double play. MT looked to translate their defensive prowess to the offense end heading into the bottom of the 4th. Ledbetter struck out swinging and Davis grounded out weakly to second before pinch hitter Kristine Reed advanced to second base on a throwing error by the third baseman. Whitney Darlington fouled out to first base to end the inning. The Gamecocks blasted the Raiders in the 5th inning, scoring five times and collecting five hits to give them a 5-1 lead. Middle Tennessee looked to respond in their half of the inning and got off to a great start as Stiner tripled to deep center field. Able hit a single to left field, driving in Stiner and cutting the Blue Raider deficit to three runs at 5-2. Cline then walked before Mielke and Weiland struck out swinging. Samantha Floyd singled to right field to load the bases and Martha Davis hit a double into right center plating all three runners. Cerda grounded out to the shortstop to end the inning with the game tied 5-5. Both teams were unable to score in the 6th inning and the Blue Raiders held the Gamecocks scoreless the top of the inning to force another dramatic final half of the inning for MT. Pinch hitter Caitlin McClure bunted for a single to begin the inning. Weiland stepped up to the play6had a chance to be the hero again but was unable to get a hold of the ball as she struck out swinging for the first out. Floyd grounded out to the shortstop before Davis fouled out to the catcher to end the inning. It was time for the International Tie-breaker Rule, placing a runner at second base to start the inning for the Gamecocks. The runner, Jackie Jarman, was advanced to 3rd base on a bunt by Whitney Elder and Brittney Day hit a sacrifice bunt to plate Jarman to put Jacksonville State up 6-5. Mary Beth Ledbetter reached first on an error by Weiland, scoring Elder and giving the Gamecocks a 7-5 lead. Chrissy O'Neal popped out to end the inning. The Blue Raiders failed to get a single hit in the bottom of the innings as they dropped their second straight game. Corrie Abel led the MT offense with three hits in four at-bats, two runs and one RBI. Lindsey Vander Lugt also pitched for MT.

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