Blue Raiders Fall in First Game of Series

Doubleheader set for Sunday

March 31, 2007 · David Powell

MONROE, La. - Middle Tennessee gave up 11 runs on 10 hits in the first three innings as the Blue Raiders (17-23, 5-5 SBC) fell to the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks in the first game of a three-game series (17-18, 1-6 SBC) at the ULM Softball Complex in Monroe, La. on Saturday, 11-3. Middle Tennessee managed just two hits in the first four innings of the five inning contest. Blue Raider starter Lindsey Vander Lugt (12-13) picked up the loss for MT, allowing just one earned run on two hits, while striking out one and walking none over a single inning of action. Amy Candioto also pitched for MT, giving up five earned runs on seven hits, while striking out two and walking one in three innings Lindsay Rittenhouse (11-12) got the win for the Warhawks in a complete game effort, giving up no earned runs on six hits, while striking out six and walking three over five innings. Louisiana-Monroe opened the scoring in the bottom of the 1st inning when Megan Miller hit a two-out, two-run home run to left field, giving the Warhawks an early 2-0 lead. The deficit increased for the Blue Raiders in the top of the 2nd inning. After Heather Williams reached first base on a Whitney Darlington error, Lindsey Taylor hit a two-run home run to left field. Heather Hanson would eventually drive in Kandace Causey to increase ULM's lead to 5-0. The Warhawks hit another two-run home run in the 3rd inning for their sixth and seventh runs of the contest. Hanson singled and Jamie Liles doubled, driving in two more runs apiece and widening the lead to 11-0. Middle Tennessee attempted to rally in their half of the 5th inning but were unable to overcome the large deficit. Martha Davis hit a double and both Caitlin Mclure and Kristine Reed scored on the play due to an error by the first baseman

before Darlington hit a single to left field, driving in Davis and cutting the lead to 11-3. This was as close as they would get as Katie Mielke struck out swinging to end the game. Darlington led the MT offense, going 1-for-3 with one RBI and one stolen base. The NCAA mercy rule came into effect as MT was unable to get within seven runs by the end of the 5th inning. The Blue Raiders wrap up the series with a doubleheader on Sunday. The first game is slated to begin at Noon with the final game beginning approximately 15 minutes after the end of the first contest. A doubleheader was originally scheduled for Saturday starting at 1 p.m. with the second game being played at 3 p.m but the series schedule was altered due to severe weather in the Monroe, La. area. Saturday's game was subsequently pushed back to 8 p.m. It was the second straight set of games affected by inclement weather for the Blue Raiders. Wednesday's doubleheader against Tennessee Tech was canceled due to a storm system moving across the Cookeville, Tenn. area.

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