Cline Hits Go-Ahead Home Run in Blue Raider Win

MT moves back over .500 in Sun Belt Conference

April 1, 2007 · David Powell

MONROE, La. - Ashley Cline hit a two-run home run in the top of the 7th inning as the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (17-19, 6-5 SBC) clawed back into the lead to defeat the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks (18-23, 1-7 SBC) in the first game of a doubleheader at the ULM Softball Complex in Monroe, La. on Saturday, 7-5. Lindsey Vander Lugt (13-13) got the win for the Blue Raiders, giving up three earned runs on seven hits while striking out two and walking none over 4.1 innings of relief action. Starter Amy Candioto also pitched for the MT, giving up two earned runs on six hits while walking two over 2.2 innings. Taylor Call (4-6) picked up the loss for the Warhawks, giving up one earned run and three hits, while striking out two and walking two over 2.2 innings. Lindsay Rittenhouse also pitched for ULM, giving up four earned runs on seven hits while striking out four and walking one over 4.0 innings. Whitney Darlington started off the scoring for the Blue Raiders in the top of the 1st inning with a two-out, two-run home run to left field, giving MT an early 2-0 lead. Darlington went 3-for-4 with 3 RBI and one run scored. Darlington again drove in another run in the top of the 3rd inning when she singled, driving in Caitlin McClure and increasing the Blue Raider lead to 3-0. The Warhawks cut the MT lead in the bottom of the 3rd inning on singles by Heather Williams and Kandace Causey, driving in one run each and leaving the game at 3-2. The Blue Raiders would add another run in the 4th inning on a Kristine Reed single, increasing their lead to 4-2 but ULM would have the answer in their half of the inning. With one out, Christy Waguespack tripled to right field, setting up Liles RBI single. The next batter, Megan Miller hit a deep two-run home run to center field, giving the Warhawks their first lead of the game, 5-4. After a scoreless 5th inning, the Blue Raiders tied up the game when Shelby Stiner crushed a one-out, solo home run to center field, tying the game at 5 runs apiece and setting up a dramatic finish to the contest. Ashley Cline nailed a clutch, two-out, two-run home run to left field, giving the Blue Raiders the scores they

needed to clinch the win and moving them back above .500 in the Sun Belt Conference. Cline finished the game going 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBI and two stolen bases. She leads the team with 20 stolen bases on the season. The Blue Raiders take on the Warhawks in the final game of the series at 2:25 p.m.

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