

Raiders Post Shutout, 7-0

Squad wins fourth straight overall, heads to Little Rock this weekend

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COOKEVILLE, Tenn. - Six Middle Tennessee pitchers scattered seven hits and the Blue Raiders took advantage of some wildness on the part of three Tennessee Tech pitchers, posting a 7-0 victory Wednesday night at Bush Stadium and taking both ends of the home-and-home series. It was the first shutout for the Middle Tennessee pitching staff this season and puts the Blue Raiders over the .500 mark for the first time since winning the season opener against Jacksonville State. Middle Tennessee (17-16) scored twice in the fourth



inning with just one hit and two more runs in the eighth without a hit before adding three runs in the ninth. Middle Tennessee starter Josh Anderson (1-0) gave up just two hits and no run in four innings of work to get the victory. He struck out three and did not walk a batter in just the second start of his career. It was also the longest outing of his career in 54 appearances. Tyler Copeland, Nick Marrs, Shay Horseman, Jordan Alvis and Kenneth Roberts combined to work the final five innings, giving up five hits and striking out four. The six Blue Raider pitchers did not walk a batter in the contest. Tennessee Tech starter and Murfreesboro native Chason Choate (0-2) allowed two runs on two hits in four innings to take the loss, walking one and hitting three batters. Middle Tennessee's Rawley Bishop extended his hitting streak to 21 games with a two-run single in the ninth, while Wayne Kendrick's 11-game hitting streak came to an end, though Kendrick did score twice and made terrific defensive plays on the first and last batters of the game. After the two teams combined for just two hits through three innings, the Blue Raiders scored twice in the fourth on just one hit. Bishop and Matt Campbell were both hit to start the inning before Myles Ervin fisted a single into short left, plating Bishop. After a sacrifice bunt by Zach Barrett, Campbell scored on a sacrifice fly down the rightfield line from Grant Box for a 2-0 Middle Tennessee lead. The Golden Eagles threatened in the sixth, loading the bases with a single from Brian Sprowl, a hit batter and an error, but Jake New's line drive into leftcenter was run down by Ervin. The Blue Raiders added two insurance runs in the eighth without the aid of a hit. Kendrick walked to leadoff and Campbell was hit for the second time in the game. Ervin walked to load the

bases before Kendrick scored on a wild pitch. After Barrett walked to load the bases again, Box walked to force in a run for a 4-0 Middle Tennessee advantage. The visitors added three more runs in the ninth. Matt Ray led off with a single but was thrown out trying to steal Adam Warren then singled and Kendrick walked again. Both runners moved up on a wild pitch and Bishop's sharp single to center plated two runs. With two outs Doug Birkofer hit a slow roller to shortstop Ryan Wardlow. The throw to first was high and got away, allowing Bishop to score the final run. Middle Tennessee takes on Arkansas-Little Rock this weekend in a three-game series, starting Friday in Little Rock at 6 p.m.

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