

# Beachum, Carroll Lead 8-3 Triumph

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**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** - Jeff Beachum had a career-high four hits, including a game-tying two-run homer, and Brett Carroll added a two-run home run and three hits, as Middle Tennessee overcame a slow start to defeat Samford, 8-3, at Griffin Field Wednesday night.

Middle Tennessee's Matt Scott (1-0) tossed 3.2 scoreless innings of relief to get his first career victory. Scott allowed four hits and struck out four in relief of Shay Horseman. Scott, a redshirt freshman, got into trouble one time, as Samford loaded the bases with three straight singles in the seventh, but Scott struck out Hunter Tubbs looking to end the inning and the threat.

"Matt did a really good job, came in and really shut [Samford] down," Blue Raider head coach Steve Peterson said. "That was as long as he has gone this year and his arm started to drag, but he humped up and got that last out. I'm really proud of him getting his first win tonight."

The Blue Raiders (12-3) scored four times in the fifth to take the lead and added insurance runs in the eighth and ninth to win their eighth game in nine outings.

Samford got on the board first with a solo homer in the second from Richard Bishop, but the Blue Raiders tied the game with a single run in the third.

Eric McNamee singled with one out before Jeff Beachum laced a ball into the gap in leftcenter. Bishop kicked the ball around in the outfield, allowing McNamee to come all the way around and tie the game at one.

The Bulldogs (3-13) took back the lead in their half of the third after Matt Alling led off with an infield single and Garrett Rice walked. Samford executed the double steal to perfection on a breaking ball in the dirt, and Sam Stewart plated Alling with a sacrifice fly. Hunter Tubbs singled with two outs to score Rice for a 3-1 SU lead.

The Blue Raiders took the lead with a four-run fifth inning, highlighted by a pair of two-run homers.



McNamee singled with one out before Beachum drove one down the leftfield line, keeping it just inside the foul pole for a two-run homer and his second round-tripper in three games.

After a walk to Shane Kemp, Brett Carroll hammered a full count pitch over the wall in leftcenter, the second two-run shot of the inning, giving the Blue Raiders a 5-3 advantage.

Middle Tennessee added a pair of insurance runs in the eighth after Derek Phillips and Carroll singled to start the frame. Luke Parham moved both runners over with a bunt and Troy Harp looped a two-out single over third base, scoring both runners for a 7-3 Blue Raider lead.

McNamee scored an unearned run in the ninth on a groundout by Kemp for the final run of the game.

Travis Horschel got the final six outs for the Blue Raiders, giving up no hits. Horseman lasted just 3.1 innings, allowing three runs on five hits with three strikeouts.

Samford starter Karl Huch (1-2) gave up five runs on eight hits in 4.2 innings, walking one and striking out three. Reliever Lee Brady kept the Bulldogs in the game, allowing five hits and three runs on five hits.

McNamee was 2-for-4 and scored three times, while Beachum went 4-for-5 and Carroll was 3-for-5 with two runs and two RBIs.

The two teams play again Wednesday at 3 p.m. Middle Tennessee hosts Dayton this weekend at Reese Smith Field, beginning Friday at 3 p.m.

#### **GAME NOTES**

Junior righthander Chris Mobley was named the Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week on Tuesday after a complete-game, two-hit shutout last Friday against Southwest Missouri State ... Former Blue Raider Jerry Knox has been traded to the Brockton (MA) Rox of the independent Northeast Professional Baseball League. Knox will report to Brockton in mid-May for the season ... Jeff Beachum's single in the first extended his hitting streak to five games. Beachum had four hits in the game, a new career high ... A single in the eighth by Derek Phillips extended his hitting streak to five games ... Matt Scott worked a season-long 3.2 innings to get his first career decision. He also had a season-high four strikeouts.

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