

Mobley Tosses Another Gem in 6-1 Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Chris Mobley was one out from his second straight complete-game, allowing just an unearned run and striking out six to lead the Blue Raiders to a series-opening 6-1 victory over Dayton Friday afternoon at Reese Smith Field.

The Blue Raiders (14-3) scratched across six runs on seven hits, including an RBI single from Troy Harp and a solo home run by Shane Kemp, scoring four times in the seventh to break open a 2-1 game and win their 10th contest in 11 outings.

Mobley (4-1) came within a batter of tossing his second straight complete game after a two-hit shutout last Friday against Southwest Missouri State. The junior righthander retired the side in the first before looking shaky in the second and beginning of the third inning. He then settled down to retire 21 of the last 24 batters he faced to pick up his fourth win of the season and third straight.



Mobley is one pitch from being 5-0 on the year, a mistake at Jacksonville State on February 27 that resulted in a two-run homer and a 2-1 Blue Raider defeat. Travis Horschel came on to get the final out of the game, a groundout after a two-out walk in the ninth.

The visiting Flyers (6-10) scored once in the second thanks to an error to take an early lead.

UD's Tom Beechum reached on a throwing error with one out in the second and scored on consecutive singles by Brandon Godzik and Nick Bohnenstiehl.

The Blue Raiders plated two runs in the third inning to erase the early deficit and were also the beneficiary of an error.

Ryan Darnell and Troy Harp both singled to start the inning. Eric McNamee then laid down a sacrifice bunt that was thrown away by Godzik. Darnell scored on the play, as the ball rolled almost to the rightfield bullpen. Harp scored one batter later on a sacrifice fly by Jeff Beachum.

Middle Tennessee was held in check by Flyers starter Luke Trubee (2-2), who used a minimum of pitches before running into trouble in the seventh. Trubee allowed the two runs, one earned, on four hits and threw just 61 pitches in six innings.

In the seventh Kemp hit his team-leading fifth round-tripper of the season, a solo shot to leadoff the inning.

Derek Phillips followed with a walk and Chuck Akers beat out an infield single. Pinch-hitter Wayne Kendrick was hit by the pitch to load the bases before Harp singled through the left side to score a run. Akers scored on McNamee's walk before a doubleplay ball plated the final run.

Mobley threw 141 pitches in the game, by far a season-high, as the Flyers made him work in every inning but the fifth. He struck out the first two batters in the ninth, his first punchouts since the third inning, before walking Bohnenstiehl. The Dobyns-Bennett High School product lowered his season earned-run-average to 0.78. He has allowed just three runs, none earned, in his last 27.1 innings of work, giving up 14 hits and striking out 32.

Harp had two of Middle Tennessee's seven hits, while McNamee, Beachum, Kemp and Harp all had RBIs.

Godzik singled and doubled for two of Dayton's five hits in the contest.

The two teams resume action Saturday at 2 p.m. and play the third and final game of the series at 1 p.m. Sunday. Middle Tennessee hosts Troy State Monday and Tuesday at Reese Smith Field at 2 p.m.

GAME NOTES

Jeff Beachum's six-game and Derek Phillips five-game hitting streak both came to an end. Beachum was 0-for-3 but did drive in a run with a sacrifice fly, while Phillips went 0-for-2 with a walk ... Middle Tennessee improved to 11 games over .500 for the first time since the 2001 season. That team started the year 14-1 and never fell below 12 games above .500 ... Junior pitcher Chris Mobley lowered his season earned-run-average to 0.78, allowing an unearned run on five hits with six strikeouts. He has allowed just three runs, none earned, in his last 27.1 innings of work, giving up 14 hits and striking out 32.

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