

Trojans Outslug Blue Raiders, 18-13

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Troy State used two big innings to score 13 runs and pounded out 21 hits in the game to defeat Middle Tennessee, 18-13, Tuesday afternoon at Reese Smith Field. The Trojans swept the two-game series from the Blue Raiders and won two games in Murfreesboro for the first time since 1992. Middle Tennessee (14-6) used six pitchers and 21 players in the game, collecting 15 hits. But the Blue Raiders made five errors in the contest and let another big lead get away after jumping out to an 8-1 advantage after two innings. Eric McNamee got the Blue Raiders on the

board in the first with a leadoff home run to the opposite field, his first career round-tripper as a Blue Raiders and the first leadoff homer for the Blue Raiders this season. It was also McNamee's first collegiate home run. Jeff Beachum and Brett Carroll followed with singles before a sacrifice fly by Chris LeGuenecc plated Beachum for a 2-0 Middle Tennessee lead after an inning. The Trojans (14-6) cut the lead in half in the second after Clint Robinson was hit by the pitch to leadoff the inning and went to second on a wild pitch. One batter later Lenny Maier singled to right, scoring Robinson. Leadoff singles by Chase Eakes and Troy Harp in the second chased TSU starter Mal Winters from the game. After a walk to Chuck Akers, McNamee laid down a perfect bunt up the first base line, scoring Eakes. The Blue Raiders then had four straight singles, as Beachum, Carroll, Josh Archer and LeGuenecc all reached before Shane Kemp's sacrifice fly plated the final run of a six-run inning for an 8-1 lead. Troy State closed the gap with its own six-run inning in the third. Two singles and a hit batter loaded the bases before Wade Miller scored a pair with a single to right. A groundout by Tommy Stewart scored the third run of the inning. Maier's triple down the rightfield line scored Miller, making it 8-5 Blue Raiders, and Maier scored on a single by Michael Clements. Two more singles scored the final run of the inning, cutting the Middle Tennessee lead to 8-7. The Blue Raiders added two runs in the fourth, the first on a solo homer by Jeff Beachum, his third of the season and third in eight games. The second scored on LeGuenecc's second sac fly of the contest for a 10-7 Middle Tennessee advantage. The wheels came off in the fifth for the Blue Raiders, as the Trojans scored seven runs on six hits with the aid of two Middle Tennessee errors. Maier and Tab Beadle both had RBI singles before a sacrifice fly from Chase Amis tied the game at 10. Miller's second two-run

single gave TSU the lead for good. Robinson drove in another run with a single and the final run scored on an error for a 14-10 TSU lead. The Trojans added single runs in the seventh and ninth and two runs in the eighth, pounding out 21 hits, the most allowed by the Blue Raider pitching staff since May 18, 2002, a span of 84 games. Middle Tennessee a run in the sixth on LeGuenec's first homer of the year. The Blue Raiders added two more runs in the eighth on a pinch-hit, two-run shot from Marcus Taylor, his fifth of the season. Middle Tennessee's Tyler Copeland (1-1), the third of six hurlers in the game, suffered the loss, allowing five runs, three earned, on three hits in one-third of an inning. TSU's Landon Brazell (1-0) got the win with 3.1 innings of one-hit ball, giving up one run and striking out four. Beachum went 3-for-5 with three runs scored and two RBIs, while McNamee, Carroll, Archer and LeGuenec all had a pair of hits in the game, while LeGuenec added a career-high five RBIs in a losing effort. The top five hitters in the Blue Raider lineup accounted for 13 of the team's 15 hits. Middle Tennessee begins Sun Belt Conference action this weekend with a three-game series at New Mexico State beginning Friday at 8 p.m. CT. **GAME NOTES**

Eric McNamee led off the first with a home run, his first round-tripper of the year and the first leadoff homer of the year for the Blue Raiders. It was also McNamee's first collegiate home run ... Jeff Beachum tied a career-high with three runs scored in the contest ... Chris LeGuenec had a career-high five RBIs in the game. The junior's previous high was three ... Redshirt freshman Josh Anderson made his first appearance as a Blue Raider, facing one batter in the eighth ... Sophomore BJ Church made his first appearance of the season, tossing the final 1.2 innings ... Eleven pitchers appeared in the contest for the two clubs, with only two not allowing a run ... Troy State's 18 runs were a season-high ... TSU's Landon Brazell picked up his first career victory.

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