Blue Raiders Lose 6-0 to #2 Alabama

Return to action against New Mexico on Saturday

February 15, 2008 · David Powell

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Lindsey Vander Lugt pitched a complete game and Middle Tennessee fell behind early as the Blue Raiders (1-5, 0-0) lost 6-0 to hosts #2 Alabama (8-0, 0-0) in their second game of the Crimson Classic on Friday evening. Middle Tennessee came into the contest having dropped the first game of the Crimson Classic during the afternoon to Georgia Tech, 2-1. Middle Tennessee 's Vander Lugt (0-3) made her third start of the season in the losing effort. The sophomore pitcher gave up six runs on 13 hits, while striking out three and walking two in 7.0 innings. Crimson Tide starter Charlotte Morgan (2-0) picked up the win, giving up no runs and one hit in 4.0 innings. Kelsi Dunne made a relief appearance for Alabama, giving up no runs and no hits while striking out one and walking one in the final 3.0 innings of the contest. Alabama took the lead in controversial fashion in the opening inning. With Brittany Rogers on third base, the first base umpire ruled that MT's Vander Lugt committed an illegal pitch, forcing Rogers across the plate and giving the Crimson Tide a 1-0 advantage. Middle Tennessee tried to respond in the top of the 2nd inning but Martha Davis' shot to deep left field went just to the outside of the foul pole. Despite her getting a single on the next pitch, the Blue Raiders were unable to score any runs. The Crimson Tide increased their narrow advantage in the 3rd inning. With the bases loaded, third baseman Kelley Montalvo drove a RBI single that bounced off the outstretched glove of shortstop Whitney Darlington and into shallow left field. Kellie Eubanks batted in another run through a sacrifice fly to left field to leave Middle Tennessee trailing 3-0. Darlington was on hand with a stellar running catch and throw to first base to end the inning. The Blue Raiders looked to have cut the lead to two runs in the 5th inning but a Jessica Ives deep blast fell just short of the outfield fence and into

the glove of Alabama leftfielder Jordan Praytor. The hosts added three more runs in the 6th inning. The first came off a RBI double by Cat Dozier. Whitney Larsen then homered to left-center field to make the game 6-0 in favor of the Crimson Tide. The Blue Raiders were unable to pull back any runs as they dropped their second straight game of the Crimson Classic. Middle Tennessee returns to action Saturday morning against New Mexico at 11 AM. Follow the action live at GoBlueRaiders.com with Russell Luna providing play-by-play.

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