Blue Raiders defeat Troy 4-1 in Sun Belt Conference Opener

Look to win series against Trojans in nightcap

March 4, 2008 · David Powell

TROY, Ala. - Lindsey Vander Lugt gave up just one run and Middle Tennessee scored all of their runs in the 3rd inning as the Blue Raiders (6-9,1-0) opened the 2008 Sun Belt Conference schedule with a 4-1 win over the Troy Trojans (10-9, 0-1) at the Troy Softball Complex on Tuesday evening. Middle Tennessee came into the contest hungry after splitting a doubleheader with local rival Lipscomb last Thursday. Blue Raider starter Lindsey Vander Lugt (4-5) picked up the victory. The Sophomore gave up just one run and scattered eight hits, while striking out five and walking one in the complete game. Ashlyn Williams (9-6) picked the loss for the Trojans. The starter gave up four runs on eight hits, struck out eight and walked two in 7.0 innings of action. Middle Tennessee opened the scoring in the top of the 3rd inning. Ashley Cline dropped a short bunt and used her speed to beat out the throw at first base before advancing to third when Caitlin McLure reached on an error. Katie Mielke singled to right field, driving in Cline and pushing the Blue Raiders out front 1-0. Middle Tennessee looked to have increased their lead in the next inning, but Banania's hit to second base was caught by Trojan shortstop Kala Moore, who turned a double play to end the inning. Banania and Cline were both two-for-three with a run scored to lead Middle Tennessee. Troy's Kaitlin Kenney began the 4th inning with a single to left field before Jessica Lyle reached on a fielder's choice. Courtney Davis doubled off the wall in center field but McLure relayed to Cline, who lasered the ball to catcher

Mielke for the out with the play at the plate. Troy finally got on the board when Rocky Paige hit an RBI single up the middle, driving in Troy's Davis. Justine Cerda began the 6th inning with a deep triple to right field, her first of the season. MT was unable to drive her or any more runs across the plate as they won their first conference test of the season. The Blue Raiders match up against Troy in the nightcap of the doubleheader at 6 PM. Live stats can be followed using the link at GoBlueRaiders.com.

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