Big Bats Lead 13-3 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee pounded out 16 hits and Blue Raider pitching continued its stellar work by allowing only two hits in a 13-3 victory over Memphis Tuesday night at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders (33-17) won their sixth game in a row, matching a season-high. The crowd of 628 also helped set a new single-season attendance record, as 26,566 have watched 24 home games this season. Middle Tennessee's Josh Archer had his second straight three-hit contest, while Marcus Taylor drove in five runs and Derek Phillips went 2-for-3 with two walks, three runs scored and three RBIs to raise his average to a season-high .411. Four other Blue Raiders had a pair of hits in the contest, including Chuck Akers, Nate Jaggers, Troy Harp and Taylor. Chase Swing (2-1), making his first start since May 23, 2002, and just the sixth of his career, worked five innings, allowing one earned run and striking out. The victory was his first career win as a starter and his first outing in two weeks. Memphis (22-24) starter Stephen Gostkowski (1-4) suffered the loss, allowing six runs on eight hits in 2.2 innings. Zach Cook gave up one run in 2.2 innings before the Blue Raiders touched Daniel de Armas for six runs on five hits in 2.1 innings. The Tigers lost for the sixth straight time, a season-high, and the second consecutive game to the Blue Raiders after an 8-5 Middle Tennessee win on April 28. Middle Tennessee scored once in the first, second and sixth and four runs in the third to take control of the game. The Blue Raiders added six runs in the eighth to put the game away. UM got a run in the first when leadoff hitter Chad House tripled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Bill Moss. Phillips blasted his sixth homer of the year in the bottom of the inning, tying the score at one. Jeff Beachum and Archer both singled in the second before Harp's single to rightcenter plated Beachum for a 2-1 lead. Memphis scored a pair of unearned runs in the top of the third to take a 3-2 lead. Kurt Welch's high pop down the leftfield line fell between three players, plating Brent Dlugach. Welch scored on Ryan Martin's two-out single. Akers doubled to leadoff the third before Phillips singled down the rightfield line, driving in a run. Shane Kemp drove in a run with a single to leftfield. After a walk to Beachum, Taylor belted his eighth homer of the year, a line drive over the wall in leftcenter, for a 6-3 Middle Tennessee edge. Three straight singles by Archer, Harp and Jaggers started the sixth before Phillips drew a walk, forcing in a run. In the eighth the Blue Raiders used five

hits and two walks to score six runs. Jaggers and Akers both doubled and Carroll drove in a run with a single up the middle. Taylor tripled down the rightfield line, clearing the bases before Archer's two-out single to left, scoring Taylor for a 13-3 lead. Eric Blevins worked four hitless innings for Middle Tennessee to earn his first save of the year, striking out five with one walk. The two teams play again at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Reese Smith Field. **GAME NOTES**

Junior Chase Swing drew his first start of the year and first since May 23, 2002. It was his sixth career start. He picked up his first win as a starter with five innings of work, allowing one earned run on two hits ... Junior Josh Archer went 3-for-4 in the contest, his second straight three-hit game. He had one three-hit game this season prior to the last two games ... The Blue Raiders set a single-season attendance record on Tuesday, with the announced crowd of 628 pushing the season total to 25,566 ... The Blue Raider pitching staff allowed just two hits in the game, the second time they have done that this season, with the other against Southwest Missouri State on March 12. The staff has given up just eight hits in the last three games. The team's scoreless inning streak was snapped at 30.1 when Memphis scored in the top of the first in the contest.

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