Blue Raiders Fall 5-3 to Vols

Hines and Barrett lead MT offensivley

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Tennessee scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning and held the Blue Raiders off to take a 5-3 win on Tuesday. Middle Tennessee (8-3-1, 1-1) used five pitchers in the game as sophomore Chad Edwards received the start. Edwards allowed two runs on two hits in three and one third innings of work. Junior Kevin Whittaker took the loss on the mound as he pitched one and a third innings allowing one run on one hit. Offensively, junior Nathan Hines led the Blue Raiders again as he ended the day 2 for 4 and scored one run. Senior Zach Barrett also performed well at the plate as he went 2 for 5 with one RBI. As a team, the Blue Raiders scored three runs on seven hits walked eight times and left 12 runners on base. Tennessee (8-4) also used five pitchers in the game with Ty'Relle Harris receiving the start. Harris allowed on run on three hits in five innings of work for the Volunteers. Jeff Lockwood led Tennessee at the plate as he was 2 for 4 with one RBI and scored one run. Lockwood also came to the mound in relief and received the save as he went one and two thirds to shutout the Blue Raiders. Josh Liles also performed well as he went 2 for 4 and scored one run. Yan Gomes began the scoring for the Vols as he scored two runs with his double down the left field line in the bottom of the first, 2-0 UT. After the Vols took the early lead a pitching dual began as neither team scored until the third inning. The Blue Raiders cut the Vols lead to one in the third inning as Hines scored on a passed ball by Harris. Hines walked to reach base then advanced to second and third on a wild pitch before scoring. After Middle Tennessee cut the lead to one neither team would score again until the top of the sixth when freshman Tyler Burnett singled to tie the game. The single by Burnett allowed freshman Bryce Brentz, who received a base on balls, to score from second. Tennessee answered in the bottom of the inning as Lockwood hit a home run to left

field off Whittaker to regain the lead. The Vols then added another run as Liles scored on a fielder's choice by Burnett with the bases loaded, 4-2 UT. Cody Brown then extended the Vols' lead with his home run to right field in the bottom of the seventh, 5-2. Barrett singled to centerfield with two outs in the top of the eighth to give the Blue Raiders another run as junior Rawley Bishop scored from second. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Friday, March 14 when it travels to Jonesboro, Ark., to face Arkansas State at 6 p.m. for game one of its three-game series.

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