Errors Cost Blue Raiders in 6-5 Loss

Arkansas State took advantage of MT mistakes on Friday

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JONESBORO, Ark. - Middle Tennessee left five runners on base and had three errors in a 6-5 loss to Arkansas State on Friday. Middle Tennessee (8-4-1, 1-2) had five runners out on the bases as junior Zach Dean was picked-off at first base twice and junior Taylor Dennis was caught between bases in the sixth. While junior Nathan Hines was caught stealing and freshman Bryce Brentz was thrown out at home. "We did today what Arkansas State did for us, they gave us runs. We made so many base running mistakes and defensive mistakes. In one of their first runs we had the guy picked off but there was a lack of communication between the catcher and the third baseman and the ball should have never been thrown. The right call was made but there was a lack off communication between the two," head coach Steve Peterson said. The Blue Raiders committed three errors in the game which Arkansas State (11-5, 4-0) capitalized on as the Indians scored four runs on two hits in an inning that began with an error. "Our base running mistakes, there were just so many. Some were just being over aggressive going for two bases instead of just taking the single," Peterson said. "The better team was Arkansas State; you can see why they are off to a good start. They have good pitching, playing good defense and having timely hits. They are playing the game the way it is supposed to be played while my team is butchering it up." Senior Brad Robinson took the loss on the mound in his first start of the season as he allowed six runs on six hits with just one earned run in four and two thirds innings of work. The

Indians scored their first run in the bottom of the third on an error by Robertson. Pace struck out swinging and Robertson threw the ball to third trying to pick-off Lawson but over threw third baseman Barrett which allowed the run to score, 1-0 ASU. ASU added to its lead in the bottom of the fourth as Hudgins hit a home run to left field to put the Indians up by two. The Blue Raiders were led at the plate by senior Zach Barrett who ended the day 1 for 5 with two RBI, one home run and scored one run. Middle Tennessee had three doubles in the game as Hines extended his hit streak to 13 with his double. Junior Rawley Bishop ended the game 1 for 3 but scored two runs for the Blue Raiders. As a team, Middle Tennessee recorded nine hits with four of those hit for extra bases. Arkansas State posted six runs on seven hits with no errors in the game as Chase Ware took the win. Ware pitched five and a third innings allowing five runs on six hits with three strikeouts and four walks. Middle Tennessee responded with a run of its own in the top of the fifth. Burnett doubled to left field which allowed Bishop to score from first and cut the lead to one. Dennis then tied the game for the Blue Raiders with his single to left centerfield to bring in Burnett from second with no outs. Barrett hit a two-run home run to left field to give Middle Tennessee its first lead of the game, 4-2 MT. In the bottom of the inning ASU scored four runs on two hits with two outs to take a 6-4 lead. Coleman tied the game at four with his bases loaded single up the middle to score runners from second and third. Two batters later, Eller added two more runs for the Indians with his bases loaded single to left field to score runners from second and third again. Robertson cut the lead to one as he singled to the short stop with two outs in the top of the sixth to bring in Bishop from third. The inning ended on the play as Dennis was caught between second and third for the final out, 6-5 ASU. The Blue Raiders will face Arkansas State in game two of the weekend series on Saturday, March 15 at 6 p.m.

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