Blue Raiders Lose 8-1 to #17 UL-Lafayette

Errors cost Middle Tennessee in first game

March 16, 2008 · David Powell

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee fought back to an early tie but errors once again cost them as the Blue Raiders (7-13, 2-2) lost 8-1 to the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (18-5, 1-0) in the first game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Sunday. The Blue Raiders were coming off two losses to the Evansville Purple Aces in a non-conference doubleheader on Thursday afternoon. Lindsey Vander Lugt (4-8) picked up the start and the loss for the Blue Raiders. The sophomore gave up two earned runs on 14 hits, while striking out five and walking none in the complete game outing. Starter Ashley Brignac (11-3) picked up the win for Louisiana-Lafayette. The Sun Belt Conference pitcher of the week gave up one earned run on three hits, while striking out 11 batters in 5.0 innings. Donna Bourgeois made a relief appearance for the Ragin' Cajuns. The freshman gave up one hit, while striking out three batters in 2.0 innings. Louisiana-Lafayette took an early lead in the top of the 1st inning. Brooke Brodhead reached on an error by Blue Raider shortstop Brittney Banania before Holly Tankersley jammed an RBI double to left center field for the 1-0 advantage. Middle Tennessee's lone run came in the 2nd inning. Whittney Padgett lined a one-out single down the left field line before Whitney Darlington advanced pinch runner Kandra Singleton to second base with a sacrifice bunt. Justine Cerda looped a single into shallow center field to tie the contest at one run apiece. Fielding mistakes cost the Blue Raiders runs for the second straight game as Louisiana-Lafayette scored five runs in the 4th inning to increase their lead to 6-1. Katie Smith hit an infield single before reaching second on a throwing error by Vander Lugt. Later in the inning, Melissa Verde's bases-loaded fly ball to right field was dropped by

Martha Davis, allowing two runs to score. Bowers rounded out the scoring with a three-run homerun down the right field line. Darlington doubled off the wall to lead off the 5th inning, but the Blue Raiders were unable to capitalize as Caitlin McLure struck out swinging to end the inning. ULL added one run in the 6th inning another run in the 7th inning to make it 8-1 as the Blue Raiders dropped their second conference game of the season.

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