Rain Stops Game in 10-7 Loss on Sunday

Bishop 3 for 4 with four RBI in MT loss to FAU as game called in seventh inning

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BOCA RATON, Fla. - Middle Tennessee lost 10-7 to Florida Atlantic on Sunday after giving up a 7-3 lead in the sixth inning and having the game called in the top of the seventh due to inclement weather in the Boca Raton area. FAU (16-6, 6-1) sealed the deal in the bottom of the sixth inning as it scored seven run on two hits as Middle Tennessee (10-7-1, 3-5) used three pitchers, walked four batters, hit another batter and committed two errors. Middle Tennessee led 7-3 as Nick Arata hit a three-run home run to make it a one run game with runners at first and second, who each reached after a base on balls. Then FAU took the lead as Jeremy Griffiths reached on an error by short stop Burnett which scored two runs putting the Owls up 8-7. Junior Jordan Alvis took the loss on the mound as he gave up the lead in the sixth allowing three runs on one hit facing three batters before leaving the game. At the plate, junior Rawley Bishop guided the Blue Raiders as he was 3 for 4 with one home run, four RBI and scored one run. Freshman Tyler Burnett performed well at the plate as he ended the day 1 for 4 with two RBI and scored one run. Burnett hit the first home run of his career and committed both of Middle Tennessee's errors in the sixth inning. As a team, the Blue Raiders posted eight hits, with three home runs but left seven runners on base in the loss. Middle Tennessee picked up right were it left off in the previous game it completed from Saturday afternoon on Sunday morning. Bishop singled to bring in Barrett from second to give the Blue Raiders a 1-0 lead, its first lead of the series. With the same scenario for Bishop in the top of the third inning he launched one over the centerfield fence to put the Blue Raiders up 3-0. Mike McKenna hit his fourth home run of the weekend in the bottom of the fourth to cut the Blue Raider lead to two. Burnett added to the scoring for Middle Tennessee with his home run to centerfield which scored two runs and extended the lead to four. Junior Zach Dean added another run for the Blue Raiders with his solo home run to left field as Middle Tennessee took a 6-1 lead in the top of the fifth. William Block hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield with the bases loaded in the bottom of the fifth to bring in Arata from third and then the next batter Griffiths hit another sacrifice fly to centerfield to score another run and cut the Blue Raider lead to three. Middle Tennessee continued to score in the top of the seventh as sophomore Grant Box singled up the middle to score freshman Justin Miller from second and extend the Blue Raider lead to four. Middle Tennessee lost its first weekend road series since 2006 with its losses to FAU over the weekend. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Tuesday, March 25 when it

plays host to Tennessee Tech at 6 p.m. The Blue Raiders will play 10 of their next 12 games at Reese Smith Field.

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