Blue Raiders Fall 5-4 in 11 Innings

Look to take series against Louisiana-Monroe in final game

March 30, 2008 · David Powell

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Whittney Padgett tied the game with a homerun in the 7th inning but Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (11-17, 4-6) could not come behind for the fourth time in the game as they lost 5-4 to the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks (10-21, 2-6) in 11 innings at Blue Raider Field on Sunday afternoon. Earlier in the day, Corrie Abel was 2-for-3 with the game-winning homerun in the bottom of the 1st inning as the Blue Raiders picked up their fourth victory in Sun Belt Conference play. Lindsey Vander Lugt (8-10) made her second straight start in the loss, giving up three earned run on six hits, while striking out six in 11.0 innings. Lindsay Rittenhouse (4-9) picked up the win for the Louisiana-Monroe, giving up one earned run on six hits, while striking out six and walking six in the complete game. The Warhawks opened the scoring in the top of the 3rd inning when Brianna Love hit an RBI double to the gap in left field to make it 1-0 in favor of the visitors. Middle Tennessee tied the game in the 4th inning. Martha Davis reached on an error by Warhawk shortstop Kandace Causey . Whitney Darlington evened it up when she hit a hard RBI single to left field, driving in pinch runner Kelsey Dortch. The Blue Raiders took a 2-1 lead in the 5th inning. Katie Mielke walked to start things off before advancing to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Padgett. Mielke swiped third base and scored when catcher Megan Miller's attempt to catch the Lombard, Ill., native stealing went into right field. Louisiana-Monroe re-established their lead with two runs in the top 7th inning to make it 3-2. Molly McNeill and Callie Baker were on hand to provide RBI singles for the visitors. Middle Tennessee tied the game in the bottom half of the inning in dramatic fashion. Whittney Darlington nailed her third homerun of the season on a one-out , tying the game 3-3. ULM again went ahead by

one run in the top of the 10th inning. With two outs and a runner on third base, MT shortstop Brittney Banania's throw pulled first baseman Whitney Darlington off the bag, allowing Baker to cross the plate. In the bottom of the inning, Ashley Cline nailed a one out single through the right side, scoring Padgett and tying the game yet again 4-4. Cline was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a stolen base. The Warhawks took a fourth and final lead in the top of the 11th inning and the Blue Raiders were unable to recover as they dropped their fourth conference game of the season.

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