Blue Raiders shutout Florida International 4-0

Win fourth game of last five in Sun Belt Conference play

April 12, 2008 · David Powell

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt provided a masterful performance on the mound as the Blue Raiders (16-21, 8-7) won 4-0 over the Florida International Golden Panthers (22-28, 6-7) in the first game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Saturday afternoon. Vander Lugt (11-12) got the start and the win. The sophomore scattered six hits, while striking out six and walking none, in the complete game. The lefty threw her first shutout since Middle Tennessee's 6-0 win over #29 Southern Illinois on February 24th. Kasey Barrett (16-16) picked up the start and loss for the visiting Golden Panthers. The righty gave up three earned runs on nine hits, while striking out four and walking one, in 7.0 innings of action. Middle Tennessee opened the scoring in the bottom of the 2nd inning, driving two runs across the plate with two outs. Cline fouled out to the first before Katie Mielke stuck out swinging to start the opening frame before Corrie Abel drove a hard shot up the middle for a single. Whittney Padgett continued her offensive rejuvenation with a single of her own to put runners and Whitney Darlington walked to load the bases, bringing up Justine Cerda. The junior responded by smacking a hard shot off the glove of pitcher Kasey Barrett and into short left field for a single, scoring Abel and Padgett and putting the home team in front 2-0. Florida International threatened in the top of top of the third as Desiree Fink doubled down the left field line. The second baseman stole third base bringing up Katie Bell with two outs. Bell fanned on Vander Lugt's two-strike pitch off the plate for the third out. The Golden Panthers thought they had finally

gotten on the board in the top of the 6th inning. With two outs and Fink in scoring position at second base, center field Corrie Abel robbed Kim Rodriguez with a diving catch for the final out. The Blue Raiders doubled their lead in the bottom of the 6th inning. Martha Davis singled up the middle to start things off for the home team. Middle Tennessee came into a game ranked 13th in the nation in triples per game and Caitlin McLure made sure they stayed there when she nailed a RBI triple to right field, scoring pinch runner Kandra Singleton. Ashley Cline drove in McLure with a short, RBI single to the first base side to increase the lead to 4-0. Middle Tennessee held strong in the final inning as they picked up their fourth win in five games in Sun Belt Conference play.

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