

Blue Raiders clinch series with 3-1 win

Vander Lugt picks up second victory over FIU on day

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Whitney Darlington was 2-for-3 with a RBI and Middle Tennessee clinched their fourth conference series of the season as the Blue Raiders (17-21, 9-7) won 3-1 over the Florida International Golden Panthers (22-29, 6-8) in the second game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Saturday afternoon. Lindsey Vander Lugt (12-12) picked up her second-straight start and win for the Blue Raiders. The lefty gave up just one run and scattered 10 hits, while striking out three and walking none, in the complete game. FIU starter Jessica Landau (3-2) got the loss, giving up two earned runs on seven hits, while walking one, in 3.1 innings. Holly Satterfield also pitched for the Golden Panthers. The Hixson, Tenn. native gave up two hits, while striking out two and walking one, in 2.2 innings of relief action. The Blue Raiders took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the 3rd inning off a mistake by Golden Panther pitcher Landau. Ashley Cline crushed a double to right-center field to start things off for the home



team before advancing to third base on a passed ball. The next batter, Corrie Abel, watched a wild pitch fly pass her that allowed Cline to cross the plate and give Middle Tennessee a 1-0 lead. The Blue Raiders were not done yet as Abel nailed a double of her own to right-center field before Whitney Darlington drove her home with what proved to be the game-winning RBI single. Middle

Tennessee added two more runs to make it 3-0 in the bottom of 4th inning. Brittney Banania and Caitlin McLure led off the inning with singles before both runners advanced to third base on a passed ball. Cline grounded out to second base, scoring Banania and giving the Blue Raiders a 3-0 advantage. Florida International pulled a run back in the top of the 6th inning. Kim Rodriguez tripled to right-center field and Monique White doubled to left-center field, scoring Rodriguez and denying Vander Lugt her second straight shutout of the day. The Blue Raiders shutout the away team in the final frame as they clinched their third straight and fourth overall Sun Belt Conference series in six attempts. The Blue Raiders conclude their series against Florida International at Blue Raider Field on Sunday at 1 PM.

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