

April 15, 2008

Blue Raiders fall 6-1 to Jacksonville State

Costly errors by Middle Tennessee prove difference

David Powell

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JACKSONVILLE, Ala. - Middle Tennessee could not get anything going offensively for the first five innings as the Blue Raiders 17-23, 9-8) fell 6-1 to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks (26-11, 14-3) in the first game of a non-conference doubleheader at University Field on Tuesday afternoon.

[Lindsey Vander Lugt](#) (12-14) picked up the start and the loss for the Blue Raiders. The sophomore gave up one earned run on eight hits, while striking out two and walking one, in the complete game.

Melissa Dowling (17-7) got the start and the win for the Gamecocks. The righthander gave up no runs on no hits, while striking out two and walking one, in 4.0 innings.

Ashley Eliasson picked up the save for Jacksonville State. The freshman gave up one run on four hits, while striking out two, in 3.0 innings.

Jacksonville State got on the board in the bottom of the 3rd inning to go ahead 1-0. Rachel Fleming started things off with a double to right-center before being driven home by a Nikki Prier RBI single up the middle.

The Gamecocks capitalized off of two Blue Raider defensive errors in the bottom of the 4th inning to extend their lead to 6-0. Whitney Elder got on base after her hard shot was bobbled by third baseman Whitney Darlington before Jackie Jarman reached when her attempted sacrifice bunt was thrown just out of the reach of first baseman Darlington. Muriel Beth Ledbetter drove in the first run and Jarman scored off a passed ball before Courtney Underwood hit a three-run homerun to centerfield.

Middle Tennessee's best chance came in the top of the 6th inning. [Caitlin McLure](#) led off the inning with a single to centerfield before Brittney Banania singled to short left field. [Corrie Abel](#) reached off an error JSU shortstop Ledbetter to load the bases with one out. Padgett nailed a sacrifice fly down the left field line to score McLure and make it 6-1.

McLure was 1-for-3 with a run scored for the Blue Raiders.

[Justine Cerda](#) popped out to first base to for the third out and Middle Tennessee couldn't cut the the lead any further in the final inning as they fell for the fourth time in the last five non-conference games.



Sophomore Caitlin McLure was 1-for-3 with a run scored for the Blue Raiders in the loss. (MT)

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