Middle Teneessee Falls 6-4 to Jags

Brentz notches four hits; Stanley pitches eight innings

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Freshman Bryce Brentz helped guide the Blue Raiders on Saturday in a 6-4 loss to South Alabama. Brentz was one of two Blue Raiders to post multiple hits in the game as he ended the day 4 for 5 with one run scored. Junior Grant Box went 2 for 5 with a run scored to add assistance at the plate. "Bryce Brentz took his hacks early in the count but then you saw him cut the swing down because he watched the ball successfully. You want to see a guys who have an early 2-0 count come out shooting and let everyone know the pitcher is down in the count and has made a mistake," head coach Steve Peterson said. Senior Langdon Stanley had the longest appearance by a Blue Raider on the mound this season with his eight innings of work. Stanley struck out six batters while allowing six runs on eight hits. "Langdon did not come out ready and lathered up in the first inning and made a couple of mistakes. Then he settled down and gave us some great innings. Langdon gave us an outstanding effort that we and he can build on," Peterson said. As a team, the Blue Raiders notched 10 hits, none for extra bases, but left 13 runners on base. South Alabama had less hits with nine but had three doubles and two home runs while leaving seven runners on base. It was the first time since April 5 that the Blue Raiders did not have at least one home run and the first time since losing to Tennessee on March 11 not having an extra base hit. "Obviously we would have loved to score some runs when we had all of those opportunities but I'd take a big rally in the last two innings. I have to give credit to their starter. He did a good job with his curve ball early but as he got tired it started to go up and we had some opportunities," Peterson said. The Jags took the early lead in the first on a double to centerfield by David Doss which scored Ray Kruml from third. The Jags added two more runs on a double to center and a single to right. South Alabama took a 3-0 lead on four hits in the inning. Kruml recorded the first hit in three innings for the Jags in the fifth as he hit it out of the

park to right field extending the lead to four. The Jags added one more run in the top of the sixth on a single by Jake Overstreet to take a 5-0 lead. Ryne Jernigan added one more in the seven with his solo shot to left field. Freshman Justin Miller broke up the shutout as his single scored junior Rawley Bishop from third cutting the lead to five. Then junior Ben Darlington added another run as he reached on an error by the third baseman with the bases loaded. Junior Nathan Hines had a sacrifice fly to left field adding another run and then sophomore Blake McDade singled to centerfield allowing one more run to score and cut the Jags lead to two. The Blue Raiders ended the inning scoring four runs on four hits to make it 6-4 in favor of South Alabama. Middle Tennessee will wrap-up its three game series with the Jags at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

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