

May 2, 2008

Blue Raiders defeat rival WKU 6-2

Senior's Katie Mielke and Whitney Darlington mark senior weekend with homeruns

David Powell

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - **Lindsey Vander Lugt** gave up just one run and Middle Tennessee hit two homeruns for the second straight game as the Blue Raiders (21-28, 10-11) won 6-2 over the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (25-27, 7-14) in the first game of a conference doubleheader Friday at Blue Raider Field.

Blue Raider starter Vander Lugt (15-19) picked the complete game win for the home team. The Sophomore gave up just one earned run on 10 hits, while striking out four and walking none, in 7.0 innings.

Ryan Rogge (15-14) got the loss for Western Kentucky. The righty gave up six earned runs on nine hits, while striking out six and walking one, in 7.0 innings.

Middle Tennessee opened the scoring in the bottom of the 1st inning to make it 1-0. **Ashley Ashley Cline** led off with a lead-off triple over the head of WKU's Elizabeth Farrell, before **Corrie Abel** nailed a RBI single into short left field.

Western Kentucky took a 2-1 lead in the top of the 3rd inning. Terri Ellingsworth reached base on a bunt after a miscommunication between first baseman **Justine Cerda** and pitcher Vander Lugt allow her to first base. Rachel Boucher followed with a RBI double to centerfield, then was tagged out in a run down by shortstop Brittney Banania.

Elizabeth Ferrell doubled over the head of MT right fielder **Martha Davis** and Cline's relay throw from short right field was thrown well wide of third baseman **Whitney Darlington**, allowing Ferrell to come all the way home.

The Blue Raiders capitalized off of two bases-loaded opportunities in the bottom of the 3rd inning to take a 4-2 lead. Banania led off the inning with a single to second base before Abel drew a full-count walk to load the bases. Davis reached on a fielder's choice after her ground ball was fielded by WKU second baseman Ellingsworth and thrown home in a failed attempt to force out Banania.

Middle Tennessee took the lead off a Cerda RBI single to short left field, scoring Mielke. Darlington rounded out the scoring with a sacrifice fly to deep left field.

Middle Tennessee added two more runs to make it 6-2 in the bottom of the 5th and 6th innings off solo homeruns by Senior's **Katie Mielke** and Darlington .

Vander Lugt was stellar in the final innings as the Blue Raiders picked up their 10th win in Sun Belt Conference play.



Sophomore Lindsey Vander Lugt gave up just one run and scattered 10 hits in the complete game win.

(MT) 

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