Blue Raiders Tie Game But Fall 7-6 in 13

Barrett ties game with two-RBI single

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. - Middle Tennessee rallied to tie the game in the ninth inning but Missouri State hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield with the bases loaded in the 13th inning to take a 7-6 win. Middle Tennessee (26-25-1) mounted a ninth inning rally against the Bears (36-14) scoring six runs on four hits to tie the game at 6. Senior Zach Barrett tied the game for the Blue Raiders with his two-RBI single to right field. "We stepped up and got some big hits, took advantage of some situations and tied it up but that was it we couldn't do anything else and didn't execute some situations," head coach Steve Peterson said. We battled hard we just couldn't come away with the win. They were the better team throughout the weekend and these were tough close ball games." After forcing extra innings the Blue Raiders would only put two more hits on the board. Sophomore Chad Edwards received the start on the mound as he allowed four runs on eight hits in four and one-third inning of work. Edwards also hit three batters in the appearance as nine total batters were hit in the game. Middle Tennessee used juniors Jordan Alvis, Chad Coley and Brett Smalley in relief who allowed two runs on two hits in two and two-thirds innings of work. Sophomore Tyler Hyde entered the game in the eighth inning and pitched five hitless innings in relief for the Blue Raiders. Freshman PJ Francescon (1-4) came into the game in the bottom of the 13th allowing one run on one hit in two-thirds inning of work. "I thought relief wise we did really well on the mound. Tyler Hyde was a little inconsistent in the beginning but then settled down and pitched well," Peterson said. "PJ was very aggressive but just lost a little command of his fastball in the last inning. He had to come in and give them a pitch to hit but we did it to ourselves by letting them get on base." After freshman Tyler

Burnett broke-up the no-hitter in the top of the seventh with his single to right field, the Blue Raiders posted nine hits. Just one of those nine hits were for extra bases for the second straight game. Barrett and Burnett were the only two Blue Raiders to post multiple hits in the game as each went 2 for 5. Brayde Drake hit a double to right field with a runner at third to put the Bears on the board first. Missouri State took a 2-0 lead behind Ryan Mantle's solo shot to right field in the second inning. In the third, Drake scored on a double by Josh Mazzola to increase the lead for the Bears. Mazzola added another run for the Bears in the fifth with his double down the right field line scoring a runner from second. To begin the bottom of the seventh, junior Brett Smalley hit the first three batters to load the bases. Mantle singled to right bringing in the runner from third to extend the Bears' lead to six. Sophomore Drew Robertson scored the first run for the Blue Raiders as he scored on a single to centerfield by Burnett after reaching third on an error by the first baseman. Then with one out and the bases loaded Darlington doubled down the left field line allowing all runs to score and close the gap to two. Barrett then tied the game at 6 for Middle Tennessee with his two-RBI single to right field. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Thursday, May 15 when it plays rival Western Kentucky at 6 p.m. for its final conference series of the 2008 season. Saturday, May 17's game has been pushed back to 3 p.m. for television as it will be the Sun Belt Game of the Week on CSS.

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