Blue Raiders Fall in Close Game

Hilltoppers pull ahead for 6-5 win; Hudson perfect 3 for 3

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Middle Tennessee took the early lead but Western Kentucky tied the game and then pulled ahead for the 6-5 win on Saturday night. The Blue Raiders (27-26-1, 13-15 were led at the plate by sophomore Zach Hudson who was a perfect 3 for 3 with one RBI and one run scored. Senior Zach Barrett and juniors Nathan Hines and Rawley Bishop were each 2 for 5 as Middle Tennessee had 13 hits as a team. Hudson, Barrett and junior Taylor Dennis also each recorded a double. Western Kentucky's (28-24, 15-14) Davis took the win as he struck out the last six Blue Raider batters he faced. Davis (2-5) allowed just one hit in three and two-thirds innings of work. Sophomore Tyler Hyde took the loss on the mound for the Blue Raiders as he allowed the winning run on a solo shot by Matt Rice. Hyde allowed one run on three hits in three and one-third innings of work. Junior Jordan Alvis received the start as he allowed five runs on seven hits in two and one-third innings of work. Middle Tennessee put the first runs of the game on the board in the top of the second on a single to right field by Hudson giving the Blue Raiders a 1-0 lead. Hines had a low pop-up to first base with the bases loaded which allowed Hudson to score from third and extend the lead to two. Then Barrett doubled down the left field line brining in McDade from third to add another run in the inning. Western Kentucky answered with two runs of its own cutting the Blue Raiders lead to one with two outs. Middle Tennessee had two errors prior to each run scoring as the two runners stole second and then advanced to third on errors by Box and Dennis. Then Scott Kaskie tied the game with his single to right field allowing Matt Rice to score from second. Hudson broke the tie in the third with his sacrifice fly to left field allowing Bishop to score from third and put the Blue Raiders back on top 4-3. Middle Tennessee would not have the lead long as Wade Gaynor hit a two-run long ball to left field giving the Hilltoppers their first lead of the game 5-4. The Blue Raiders tied the game as Dennis scored from third on a wild pitch in the fourth inning after hitting a double to left field to reach. Western Kentucky broke the tie on a solo shot by Rice in the bottom of the sixth. Middle Tennessee will round out the 2008 regular season in its final game with the Hilltoppers at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Saturday's game will be broadcast on CSS as the Sun Belt Game of the Week. A replay of the game will be shown on Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m.

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