Blue Raiders Fall 12-7

MT elimnated from SBC tourney as McDade and Dennis hit long balls

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LAFAYETTE, La. - Middle Tennessee lost its Sun Belt Conference Tournament elimination game 12-7 on Thursday morning. Junior Chad Edwards took the loss on the mound as he allowed seven runs on seven hits in six and one-third innings of work. Sophomore Tyler Hyde, junior Chad Coley and senior Brad Robinson worked three innings in relief for Middle Tennessee allowing five runs on five hits. Junior Rawley Bishop ended the day 3 for 5 while senior Zach Barrett was 2 for 4. Middle Tennessee had 13 hits in the game with home runs by junior Taylor Dennis and sophomore Blake McDade and doubles by Bishop and junior Nathan Hines. FAU scored the first run early in the first on a single to right field by Silversmith bringing in Arata, who receive a base on balls, from second. Cook singled to second base with two outs brining in runners from second and third to give the Owls a three-run lead. McDade set the tone for the Blue Raiders with his lead off home run to right field cutting FAU's lead to one. The last Blue Raider to hit a home run to begin the game was Nathan Hines on April 11 against Florida International. Middle Tennessee tied the game at 3 behind the bat of Hines who hit a two-run double to centerfield in the bottom of the third. Hines scored on the next play as Obradivich slipped off the mound resulting in a wild pitch moving him to third. Then the pick-off throw was off-line allowing him to come in and break the tie giving the Blue Raiders a 4-3 lead. Burnett extended the lead to two with his single to short left field as Bishop scored from second. The Owls closed the gap to one in the top of the seventh as Edwards walked Griffiths with the bases loaded allowing Ozga to come in

from third. McKenna's single to centerfield scored the tying run from third. Silversmith broke the game open with his grand slam to left field giving FAU a 9-5 lead. The Owls took the lead scoring six runs on four hits in the inning. Middle Tennessee responded in the bottom of the inning a Dennis hit a solo home run to left field cutting the lead to three. In the top of the ninth, Coley gave Cook a base on balls with the bases loaded giving the Owls a four run lead, 10-6. Robinson came in to pitch with two outs as Hatcher hit a single to centerfield bringing in two more runs. Bishop singled to right field with the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the inning to close the gap to five. Middle Tennessee rounds out the 2008 season with an overall record of 27-29-1 and was 13-16 in Sun Belt Conference regular season action.

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