9-8 win over TTU keeps Blue Raiders undefeated

Meinhart hits grand slam

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Junior Stuart Meinhart's grand slam to right field in the bottom of the sixth helped give the Blue Raiders a 9-8 win over Tennessee Tech on Wednesday night. Meinhart's home run, his first hit as a Blue Raider, proved to be the deciding runs for the Blue Raiders on the night as Tennessee Tech tried to make it interesting in the end. Ben Burgess singled to left field bringing in a runner from second to cut the Blue Raider (5-0) lead to one in the top of the ninth but the rally would end there as junior Coty Woods struck out the next batter. "I know Stuart is going to be aggressive. I am looking at different things and trying to get some guys some at bats. I wanted to see what Stuart would do and I knew the wind was blowing out," head coach Steve Peterson said. "The smart thing I did was leave him in because I had a couple of opportunities where I could have taken him out. It was the game winner and it was huge for him. I know he is excited." Meinhart ended the night 1 for 4 with four RBI and a home run while Woods picked up his third straight save. Woods faced six batters in the ninth getting all three outs on swinging strikeouts. "I can't ask any more from Coty Woods. He has three appearances and three saves. He has guts and got the job done," Peterson said. "He looks very calm and wants to be in that situation. I know my team has confidence in him and when you have someone in the bullpen that your team wants in the game is huge." The Blue Raiders had just seven hits on the night, its first game this season without double-digit hits, as TTU (3-2)notched 11 hits on the night. TTU's Burgess ended the night 4 for 5 with five RBI, a double and a home run. Junior Blake McDade had the most hits for the Blue Raiders with two as he was 2 for 4 with one RBI and scored a run. Sophomore Bryce Brentz and junior Taylor Dennis had the only other extra base hits as Brentz hit a two-run home run and Dennis had a triple. Tennessee Tech started the game with a three-run home run to left field taking an early 3-0 lead. The Blue Raiders scored a run to begin the inning on a single to right field by McDade. Brentz then tied the game at 3 on a long home run to left field. Burgess doubled to centerfield in the third to break the tie and then a sacrifice hit drove in a runner from third to give the Golden Eagles a two-run lead. A two-run single by junior Justin Jones in the bottom of the third knotted the game back up at 5. Heath Cheverton cut the Blue Raider lead to two, 9-7, with a two run home run in the top of the eighth. The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Friday, Feb. 27

at 3 p.m. at Reese Smith Jr. Field as it plays host to Jacksonville State in a three-game series. Live stats and audio will be available on goblueraiders.com throughout the series. The Blue Raiders' games will also be broadcast on 88.3 FM in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Friday and Saturday.

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