Blue Raiders split doubleheader at Austin Peay

Win 5-0 in first game, fall 7-4 in second

March 17, 2009 · David Powell

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. - The Blue Raiders took advantage of defensive mistakes in the first game, but fell victim to costly errors of their own in the second as they split a non-conference doubleheader with Austin Peay at Lady Govs Softball Field on Wednesday evening. Middle Tennessee was looking to rebound from three losses to Troy in their opening Sun Belt Conference series of the season last week. The Blue Raiders used four Austin Peay errors to take a three-run lead and never looked back as they rolled to a 5-0 victory in the first game of the day. Lindsey Vander Lugt (4-7) picked up her ninth complete game and first shutout of the season in the win, allowing just three hits over seven innings. Abby Mabry (2-4) gave up four runs on three hits over two innings in the defeat for the Lady Govs. Laurie Anna Cooley started things off in the top of the third inning with a single off the glove of shortstop Ashley Taylor before advancing to second on a sacrifice bunt by Tobie Joy. Kandra Singleton advanced to first off a fielding mistake by the pitcher and both runners advanced on the play due to another Austin Peay fielding error, this time by third baseman Krista Henke. Caitlin McLure followed the play by smashing an RBI single to the infield, scoring Cooley. On the same play the pitcher tried to catch Singleton at third base after receiving the ball in circle, but her throw went well wide of the bag and allowed both Singleton and McLure to come across the plate. McLure was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI in the first game. The Blue Raiders added another run in the top of the third inning off a Cooley RBI single down the left

field line. Corrie Abel used an RBI single down the left field line of her own in the final inning to push McLure across the plate and make it 5-0 in favor of the away team. Cooley went 2-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI for the Blue Raiders. In the seventh inning, Austin Peay threatened with runners at second and third and one out, but a putout by Blue Raider shortstop Brittney Banania and a fly out to left fielder McLure prevented the home team from scoring any runs. Middle Tennessee allowed six runs in the fourth frame and could not complete the comeback as they fell 7-4 to the Lady Govs to round out the doubleheader. Caty Jutson (1-5) allowed just one earned run on two hits over 3.1 innings in the defeat. Vander Lugt worked the final 2.2 innings of the game, allowing six hits. Despite the scoreline, the pitchers allowed just one earned run out of seven against in the contest. Lacey Briscoe (1-0) threw 1.2 innings of relief, giving up two runs on two hits for the win. Austin Peay took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off a sacrifice fly to centerfield by Tiffany Smith. The Blue Raiders scored two runs in the top of the third inning to retake the lead from the home team. Banania drew a two-out walk and stole second base before coming home off a Kelsey Dortch RBI rip to the gap in left field. Dortch then advanced to second on a wild pitch, stole third base and came home on another wild pitch to make it 2-1. The Lady Govs capitalized off of two errors by Blue Raider fielders to score six runs in the fourth. Ashley Taylor and Daniella Hooper picked up RBI shots for the home team. Middle Tennessee pulled two runs back in the top of the fifth. Dortch was hit by a pitch and advanced to second base on a Barrett single off the glove of the third baseman before back-to-back RBI singles by Martha Davis and Jessica Ives made it 7-4. The Blue Raiders had the tying run at the plate in the sixth with two outs and Joy and McLure at second and third, but Dortch struck out swinging to end the inning. Middle Tennessee left nine runners on base in the game. The Blue Raiders travel for a single game against in-state rival and sixth-ranked Tennessee on Wednesday. Opening pitch is slated for 5 p.m. CT.

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