Softball Drops Doubleheader to No. 8 Alabama

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Middle Tennessee softball (3-13) dropped a doubleheader to No. 8 Alabama (27-6) 9-1, 9-2 Tuesday at UA Softball Complex.

Middle Tennessee jumped on the board first in game one. Senior Jennifer Grybash hit a leadoff single to start the game and stole second to put herself in scoring position. Trish White ground out to second base, advancing Grybash to third. Grybash scored off an RBI single by Liz Davis.

Freshman hurler Ashley Katinas held Alabama scoreless for one inning before allowing three runs in the second. With one out in the second inning, Katinas walked Leah White and gave up a single to Dani Woods to set up the first Crimson Tide runs of the inning. Alabama picked up two runs off a two RBI triple by Jordan Prayter. Alabama scored its third run when Deasy Phillips plated Prayter off an RBI bunt.

In the third, Alabama's Capper Reed led off the inning with a triple. Reed scored off a Blue Raider scoring error to give the Crimson Tide a 4-1 lead.

Middle Tennessee had something brewing in the fourth inning with runners on first and second. Leah Grothause reached first on an error by the Alabama shortstop Dominque Acceturro and Candis Littrell moved Grothause to second with a single. With one out, Brandi Boehner popped up to the third baseman on a failed bunt attempt for the second out. Jessica Boyce got the third out of the inning when she struck out looking.

Alabama tacked on its fifth run of the game when Staci Ramsey took a 3-2 pitch from Katinas over the right field wall. The Crimson Tide tacked on its sixth run thanks to a Blue Raider error and Katinas giving up a walk to pinch hitter Stephanie VanBrakle. Prayter plated Michelle Menningman off an RBI single. Phillips sent VanBrakle home with an RBI single, as the Blue Raiders gave up three runs on five hits in the inning.

Alabama added its seventh run of the game off an RBI single by Menningman in the bottom of the

sixth inning. VanBrakle's RBI single plated Mandy Burford to shorten the game to six innings.

Middle Tennessee jumped on Alabama again to start the second game. Davis hit the second homerun of her career when she launched a bomb over the left field wall for a two RBI performance. Her long ball plated Littrell who reached on a fielder's choice.

Alabama had an answer for the Blue Raider's two runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Crimson Tide opened the inning with three consecutive singles to load the bases. Alabama scored its first run of the inning when Katinas threw a wild pitch that sent home Praytor. VanBrakle tied the game on an RBI single and after that the floodgates were open. Alabama scored six runs in the first inning on six hits.

Middle Tennessee had a scoring opportunity in the top of the third when Christi Benton led off the inning with a single. Grybash drew her second walk of the game to place runners on first and second, but the Blue Raiders left them stranded with three consecutive outs.

Alabama tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the third. Emily Currie and Menningman each hit RBI doubles for the Crimson Tide's seventh and eighth runs of the game.

Davis led the Blue Raiders in the doubleheader going 2-for-5 with a run scored and three RBI. Grybash and Benton also had multiple hits in the series, with two, and Grybash also scored a run.

Middle Tennessee returns to action on Thursday when the Blue Raiders host Mississippi State. The first pitch is set for 3 p.m. at Blue Raider Field.

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