Blue Raiders fall in two games at ULM

Conclude series Sunday at Noon

March 28, 2009 · David Powell

MONROE, La. - Middle Tennessee gave up five runs off errors and could not produce offensively as they dropped two games to the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks on Saturday afternoon. Middle Tennessee (6-20, 1-7 Sun Belt) scored first but gave up the lead because of three mistakes in the bottom of the second as they fell 4-1 to ULM (12-19, 4-3 Sun Belt) in the first game of the day. Kellie Head (1-4) did not allow a run and gave up just three hits for the Blue Raiders. The righty worked the first two innings in the loss. Lindsey Vander Lugt worked the final four innings for Middle Tennessee. The junior gave up just two hits and no earned runs in the relief appearance. Kandace Causey (7-9) allowed one run on three hits, while striking out 13 batters in the complete game win. The Blue Raiders opened the scoring in the top of the first inning off Kelsey Dortch's second homerun of the season. The Warhawks took advantage of two Middle Tennessee errors in the bottom of the second to take a 3-1 advantage. With two outs, Jessica Olguin hit a grounder up the middle that was bobbled by Blue Raider second baseman Tobie Joy, allowing a run to score. The next batter, Brianna Love, singled with the bases loaded before a fielding error by Blue Raider catcher Laurie Anna Cooley allowed Robin Biddle to score to make it 3-1. ULM added another run off a Katie Giradi single through the right side to make it 4-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning Middle Tennessee scored late, but could not overcome a two-run deficit as they dropped the second game 2-1 to the Warhawks. Vander Lugt (4-10) allowed one earned run on four hits, while striking out five in the complete game loss. Heather Fritz (2-6) picked up the win for the home team, giving up just one run on four hits in the first 5.1 innings. Kandace Causey threw 1.2 innings of

hitless ball for her second save of the season. The away team looked dangerous when Martha Davis nailed a two-out single over the head of the second baseman in the top of fourth inning, but Shelby Barrett grounded out to end the inning with the score still knotted at zero. Davis went 2-for-3 for Middle Tennessee in the second game. The Warhawks took advantage of a Blue Raider mistake with runners in scoring position to take the lead in the bottom of the inning. Back-to-back Molly McNeill and Megan Miller singles put runners on second and third before pinch runner Elyse Stark scored on passed ball by Blue Raider catcher Natalie Ysais. Middle Tennessee threatened in the top of the fifth but could not even the scoreline. Kaycee Popham smashed a single down the left field line before Kandra Singleton walked two batters later to move Popham into scoring position, but Brittney Banania stuck out looking to end the inning. Vander Lugt did well to strike out the first two batters of the sixth inning, but an Olguin single and an RBI double by Brianna Love made it 2-0 in favor of the Warhawks. In the top of the sixth, the Blue Raiders used a ULM error to cut their deficit in half. Caitlin McLure reached on an error by Warhawks shortstop Olguin, Davis singled through the middle and Barrett got on because of another error by the shortstop to load the bases and bring up Caty Jutson. The freshman fouled out to the third baseman, but the ensuing throw back to the pitcher went well wide and allowed McLure to score. The Blue Raiders complete their series with the Warhawks on Sunday. Opening pitch at the ULM Softball Complex is set for Noon.

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