

April 14, 2009


## Blue Raiders fall 9-4 to No. 18 Louisville

### Banania, Davis lead team in tough loss

David Powell



Sophomore shortstop Brittney

Banania went 2-for-2 with a RBI, run scored and walk to lead the Blue Raider offense. (MT) 

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**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** - **Brittney Banania** went 2-for-2 with her first career triple, but Middle Tennessee twice failed to hold one-run leads as they fell 9-4 to No. 18 Louisville at Ulmer Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders were playing out of conference for the first time since falling 4-3 in eight innings to mid-state rival Tennessee Tech on March 24.

**Kellie Head** (1-6) allowed two earned runs on four hits over one inning in the relief appearance.

**Lindsey Vander Lugt** got the start and gave up two runs on six hits before giving way with two out in the third inning. **Caty Jutson** worked the final 2.1 innings on the mound for the away team.

**Kristen Wadwell** (31-5) gave up one run on three hits after working the final four innings for the Cardinals.

**Tori Collins** worked the opening three innings for the home team, allowing three runs on six hits.

**Caitlin McLure** nailed a one-out single through the left field in the first inning before stealing her team-leading 12th stolen base of the season, but **Martha Davis** and **Natalie Ysaïs** were unable to drive the junior across the plate.

The Blue Raiders came up strong defensively in the bottom of the frame to prevent the Cardinals from taking the lead. **Melissa Roth** led off with a double to short left field, but was thrown out at home plate two batters later after a nice throw by Blue Raider left fielder **McLure**.

Middle Tennessee opened a 1-0 lead after loading the bases in the second inning. **Shelby Barrett** started things off with a one-out double to center field before two-straight singles by **Banania** and **Kandra Singleton** put three on the bags. **Tobie Joy** nailed her fifth RBI of the season with a single up the middle to push the Blue Raiders out in front.

Louisville took a 2-1 advantage in the bottom of the third inning. **Vanessa James** hit a bunt single and advanced to third base two batters later before back-to-back RBI shots by **Kristin Austin** and **Chelsea Bemis**.

Middle Tennessee regained the lead in the top of the fourth. **Shelby Barrett** drew a leadoff walk before **Banania** smashed a shot to left center that went under the glove of a diving center fielder **Kristi Cunningham** and to the wall. **Kelsey Dortch** made it 2-1 with a RBI single to center field.

The Cardinals scored four runs in the bottom of the inning off **Brittany York**, **Roth** and **Bemis** RBIs before adding three more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to make it 9-3.

**Davis** cut the deficit to 9-4 in the seventh inning with her team-leading fourth homerun of

the season, a solo shot over the left field fence.

Banania went 2-for-2 with a RBI and walk to lead the Blue Raider offense.

Davis finished 2-for-4 for Middle Tennessee.

The Blue Raiders return to action on Wednesday for a doubleheader at Eastern Kentucky. Opening pitch is slated for 2 p.m. ET.

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