

April 22, 2009

## Blue Raiders roll to doubleheader sweep Pick up two-straight shutout wins over TSU

David Powell



Sophomore infielder Kandra

Singleton set career highs in hits, RBIs, runs scored and triples as the Blue Raiders outscored Tennessee State 15-0 in the doubleheader.

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**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - Middle Tennessee got it going with the bats and on the mound as they rolled to 12-0 and 3-0 victories in a non-conference doubleheader against Tennessee State at Tiger Field on Wednesday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders were coming off a doubleheader split on the road against the Evansville Purple Aces on Tuesday evening. Freshman Shelby Barrett hit her first-career home run to lead Middle Tennessee.

**Kandra Singleton** set career highs in hits, RBIs, runs scored and triples as the Blue Raiders powered their way past the Tigers in the first game 12-0.

**Lindsey Vander Lugt** (8-15) allowed just one hit and two runners on base to pick up the complete-game shutout win. The sophomore has now given up just one run in the last 19.2 innings for the Blue Raiders.

Megan Hedrick (3-12) got the loss for the home team, giving up six runs on four hits over 3.2 innings.

Susie Burke and Kelly Troglin combined to pitch the final 1.1 innings in relief for Tennessee State.

Middle Tennessee started off strong when Natalie Ysais led off the top of the second inning with a double off the wall in right field before advancing to third base on a wild pitch by Hedrick. Singleton smacked her first-career triple with a blast to right field to make it 1-0.

The Blue Raiders scored seven runs to take a commanding lead in the fourth inning. **Martha Davis** lined to right field for a single and Ysais was hit by a pitch to put runners on base to begin frame, before Singleton nailed her second RBI of the game with a base hit to short left field.

Tobie Joy extended the inning with a walk to load the bases and **Kelsey Dortch** drew one of her own to push a run across the plate.

**Caitlin McLure** then smashed a two RBI single off the outstretched glove of the shortstop and Davis walked to make it 6-0. Ysais smacked a shot into the gap in left field, scoring two more runs.

Ysais finished the game with a career-high two hits and two RBIs.

Middle Tennessee added three more runs in the fifth inning. Singleton completed her stellar day with a bunt single, before stealing second base. Back-to-back Joy and Dortch doubles made it 10-0.

Dortch scored on a Barrett single through the right side before McLure scored two batters later on a throwing error by Tigers second baseman Tamara Perkins to make it 12-0. The contest ended on run rule.

McLure finished a combined 3-for-7 with two RBIs and three stolen base for the Blue Raiders.

Sophomore **Kellie Head** threw one of her best games of the season on the mound for Middle Tennessee as the Blue Raiders picked up a 3-0 win over the Tigers in the second game of the day.

Head (2-6) allowed just two hits while striking out five for the third complete game shutout by a Blue Raider pitcher in the last four contests.

Caitlin Eaton (11-12) gave up three runs on six hits over seven innings for the home team.

Neither team managed a hit in the first two innings, but it was Middle Tennessee that went out front in the third frame.

Back-to-back Barrett and Ysais infield singles and a Kaycee Popham walk loaded the bases before pinch hitter Jessica Ives drew another walk to force what proved to be the game-winning run across the plate.

Singleton continued her dominant performance by beating out a bunt single to make it 2-0 in favor of the Blue Raiders.

Middle Tennessee added an insurance run in the top of the final inning. McLure singled off a well-placed bunt and stole both second and third base before coming home on a throwing error by the Tiger catcher Jalisa Bradley.

The Blue Raiders return to Sun Belt Conference action for a three-game series against Florida Atlantic this weekend. Opening pitch at Blue Raider Field is slated for 1 p.m. Saturday. A senior day presentation will precede the game and is tentatively scheduled to begin at 12:45 p.m.

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