

Hines hits for cycle in 11-5 win

Take series 2-1 over South Alabama

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MOBILE, Ala. - Senior Nathan Hines hit for the cycle as he helped guide the Blue Raiders to an 11-5 win over South Alabama on Sunday to win the weekend series 2-1. Hines completed the cycle after a two-run shot to left field in the seventh. Hines got the cycle in order, single, double, triple, home run and recorded just the second cycle in school history. Hines ended the day 4 for 5 with four RBI and scored



two runs. The last Blue Raider to hit for the cycle was Adam Warren who hit for the cycle on April 25, 2006 in a 12-5 win over Lipscomb at Reese Smith Jr. Field. "Hines had a great day hitting for the cycle. When Nathan is hitting the ball to the opposite field he is unstoppable. What a wonderful day and it doesn't happen very often and I know he will remember it," head coach Steve Peterson said. Middle Tennessee (30-12, 18-6) had 18 hits on the day with five doubles, a triple and two home runs. Sophomore Bryce Brentz also had four hits on the day as he had a double and scored one run. Seniors Grant Box and juniors Drew Robertson, Blake McDade and Ben Darlington all had two hits on the day with Box and McDade each having two RBI. Phillip Byrd faced one batter and threw exactly two pitches leaving the game due to an injury but took the loss after Box reached on a fielder's choice became his batter and since he scored the first run for the Blue Raiders Junior Chad Edwards (7-1) took the win in his first Sun Belt start, allowed four runs on 10 hits in 5.1 innings of work. Junior Brett Smalley and freshman Justin Guidry worked two innings in relief allowing one run on two hits between them. Junior Coty Woods picked up his 10th save of the season as he worked 1.2 innings allowing no runs or hits with three strikeouts. Woods entered the game in the bottom of the eighth with one out, bases loaded and struck out the two batters he faced looking. "The bullpen did well with the wind blowing out to left. Justin kind of lost his concentration and everything went from being down to being up so that was really the only disappointing thing out of the bullpen," Peterson said. South Alabama (21-22, 9-12) had 13 hits on the day with three for extra bases leaving 10 runners on base. The Blue Raiders got on the board first as a single to right field by Robertson scored Box from third in the first inning. In the second inning, Middle Tennessee continued to take care of business scoring six runs on six hits to take a 7-0 lead. Hines, Box, Brentz, Bishop and Darlington all had RBI hits with all of those being doubles with the exception of Box who singled. USA added a run in the second after a double by Overstreet scored Drake from second, who was hit by a pitch to reach. Then O'Reilly added another run as he hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield allowing Hook to score cutting the MT lead to five runs. Middle Tennessee added a run after Dennis scored from third on a single to shallow right center field by Box; 8-2 MT. Dennis singled

and then reached third after a failed pickoff attempt by Baxter. USA added two runs on two hits in the sixth to cut the Blue Raider lead to four runs. The Blue Raiders will have two mid-week games at Reese Smith field before traveling to Troy, Ala., for its weekend series with Troy. Middle Tennessee will play host to Belmont on Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at Reese Smith Jr. Field.

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