

Baseball Splits DH with 8-2 Loss

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JONESBORO, Ark. - Geoff Desmond went 4-for-4 with two home runs, and Tyler Goodwin struck out eight in four-plus innings to get the victory, as Arkansas State defeated Middle Tennessee, 8-2, to split a doubleheader Saturday at Tomlinson Stadium. Desmond belted home runs in the third and sixth innings, as the Indians scored in all but one inning in the seven-inning contest, the second game of a doubleheader after a rainout Friday night. The Indians had 14 hits in the contest, four by Desmond and three each from Michael Williams and Brett Kinning. Desmond drove in

four runs and Kinning had three RBIs in the victory. Goodwin (3-3) got the win with 4.2 innings of sterling work, striking out eight and retiring 10 straight batters before a walk forced him from the game. He allowed two runs on three hits, walking two. The righthander was on a strict pitch count and was taken out after 73 pitches. Blue Raider starter Tyler Copeland (4-3) took the loss, allowing four runs on six hits in two-plus innings, his shortest outing of the season. The lefthander gave up two home runs and struck out two. Middle Tennessee got a run in the first when Todd Martin walked and Nate Jagers doubled to leftfield, plating Martin for a 1-0 lead. ASU struck quickly in their half of the first, with leadoff batter Williams blooming a single down the rightfield line before Kinning belted a two-run homer to dead centerfield for a 2-1 Indians lead. The Raiders tied the game in the second when Jeff Beachum singled, stole second, and scored on a one-out single to right from Marcus Taylor. ASU shortstop Chris Rich saved another run with a good play up the middle to end the inning, cutting off a grounder headed for centerfield off the bat of Eric McNamee and throwing out the runner at first. ASU got the run back in the bottom of the inning when Chris Prothro was hit with two outs and Williams followed with a single. Kinning's bloop single to right plated Prothro for a 3-2 Indians advantage. Desmond's leadoff homer in the third, his 13th round-tripper of the season, gave the Indians a 4-2 lead and chased Copeland. Kevin Kull greeted reliever Jeff Kasser with a triple down the rightfield line, but catcher Michael McKenry bailed out the Blue Raiders in the inning, picking off Kull with a snap throw at third. In the fourth Prothro flared a single to right to leadoff, and Williams followed with a single. Kinning laid down a sacrifice bunt but beat the throw, loading the bases with no one out. After a popout Desmond singled home a run and Kull followed with an RBI

groundout, giving the home team a 6-2 lead. Rich tripled in the sixth before Desmond completed his perfect game at the plate, greeting reliever Tyler Wetherington with a blast over the leftfield wall, his second of the game and 14th of the season. The homer tied the single-season record at ASU and also moved the first baseman into first place on the single-season RBI list with 55. Beachum had two of Middle Tennessee's five hits in the contest, with Adam Warren, Jagers and Taylor accounting for the other three hits. The two teams conclude the series Sunday at 1 p.m. The Blue Raiders return home next weekend, hosting Florida International beginning Friday at 7 p.m. **GAME NOTES** Nate Jagers extended his hitting streak to nine games with a double in the first ... Jeff Beachum extended his hitting streak to nine games with a single in the second ... Adam Warren extended his hitting streak to 11 games with a single in the seventh ... Starter Tyler Copeland worked two-plus innings, his shortest outing of the season.

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