McKenry's Single Gives Raiders 5-4 Victory

May 7, 2005 · MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Michael McKenry's single in the bottom of the 10th inning scored Marcus Taylor, giving Middle Tennessee a 5-4 victory and series win over Florida International Saturday afternoon at Reese Smith Field. McKenry's third hit of the game ended the see-saw affair, with the lead changing four times in the contest. The Blue Raiders (23-19, 9-7 Sun Belt) loaded the bases in the 10th with three walks before McKenry's single over the head of rightfielder Yahmed Yema. Allan Woodward (5-1), the fourth Middle Tennessee pitcher of the day, picked up the win with 2.1 innings of work, allowing one run with a strikeout. FIU's Matt Rainey (0-5) took the loss, walking three and giving up one hit in two-thirds of an inning. Blue Raider starter Tyler Copeland pitched in-and-out of trouble throughout his five innings of work, allowing two runs on eight hits and striking out four. Eric Blevins worked two innings, giving up a run, and Josh Anderson got two outs in the eighth before giving way to Woodward. FIU starter David Asher was denied his ninth win of the season, giving up three runs on 11 hits in 5.1 innings. He walked one and struck out two. Reliever Frank Gonzalez allowed one run on two hits in 3.1 innings, walking three and striking out three. The Panthers (30-18, 8-9) got on the board in the third with five hits, starting with a leadoff single from Corey Lozano. Luis Rivera reached on an infield single with one out, but Lozano was thrown out trying to steal third. A chopper over Nate Jaggers' head at third base from Dennis Diaz plated Rivera. Bryan Pullin singled and Michael Lopez was hit to load the bases. Yahmed Yema's infield single off the end of the bat scored Lopez for a 2-0 FIU lead. The Raiders had a chance to cut into the deficit in the fourth with one-out singles from Jeff Beachum and a beautiful bunt single by Adam Warren. Beachum stole third to put runners on first and third with one out, but Nathan Hines struck out looking and Josh Archer flied out to right to end the threat. In the fifth Middle Tennessee finally pushed across a run with the aid of three hits. Chase Eakes led off with a single, but pinch-runner David Patterson was thrown out trying to steal second. A two-out walk by Wayne Kendrick opened the door again, and Jaggers followed with a single through the leftside. McKenry then singled to center, plating Kendrick and cutting the deficit to 2-1. Warren singled to leadoff the sixth and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from Hines. Archer doubled off the wall, putting runners on second and third. Patterson then put his

bat on an 0-2 pitch and singled to right, his first collegiate hit, tying the contest and chasing Asher from the game. Gonzalez walked Eric McNamee on four pitches to load the bases before walking in a run, giving the Raiders a 3-2 lead. But the Blue Raiders were unable to hold the lead, with Pullin's double to leadoff the eighth starting the rally. Lopez grounded out to move the runner to third, and Yema's groundout tied the contest at three. Middle Tennessee retook the lead in the bottom of the inning, starting with a wild pitch on a strikeout by Taylor, allowing the pinch-hitter to reach. McNamee walked and Adam Darby blooped a single in short center to load the bases. Jaggers' sacrifice fly to left plated Taylor for a 4-3 Blue Raiders advantage. Again the Panthers tied the game, this time with a single run with two outs in the ninth. James McOwen singled to start the inning, went to second on a wild pitch, and third on a sacrifice bunt by Lozano. Woodward struck out pinch-hitter Yosvel Barraso, but Rivera singled to center with two outs, plating McOwen to tie the game at four. In the ninth, Taylor walked and went to second on a sacrifice bunt from McNamee. Darby was intentionally walked and Jaggers drew a walk to load the bases. McKenry then laced a 2-2 pitch to right for the game-winner, his second three-hit contest in the last four games. The two teams conclude the series Sunday at 1 p.m. Optimist Little League Day is Sunday, with the parade of players set to begin at 12:40 p.m. **GAME NOTES**

Wayne Kendrick made his second start of the season, both as the designated hitter, and the first since March 11 versus Jacksonville State ... Nate Jaggers extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a single in the first ... Jeff Beachum extended his hitting streak to a career-high 12 games with a single in the fourth ... Adam Warren extended his hitting streak to 14 games with a bunt single in the fourth ... David Patterson's RBI single in the sixth was his first collegiate hit.

Printed on April 23, 2014
Original URL: http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/4025