Blue Raiders drop Sunday game 9-6 to Jacksonville State

Hudson, Burnett each hit home runs

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JACKSONVILLE, Ala. - Chad Edwards' first start didn't go as planned as Middle Tennessee fell to Jacksonville State 9-6 on Sunday. "Jacksonville was the better team," said Coach Steve Peterson. "They outplayed us, and deserved to win the series." Edwards, who had a start wiped away due to a rainout at Memphis earlier this season, allowed eight runs on seven hits and two walks over four and one third innings. Eric Gilley gave up two runs in an inning of relief, and Kevin Whittaker pitched the final two and two thirds for the Blue Raiders, striking out four. Zach Hudson starred offensively for Middle Tennessee (7-3), going 3-5 with a home run and two runs batted in. After missing Saturday's game due to an illness, Tyler Burnett homered in his second straight game while going 1-5 at the plate with two RBI. Ryan Ford went 2-3 and scored a run and an RBI. Justin Guidry also went 2-3 with a run. Bryce Brentz was 2-5 on the day and scored a run. Middle Tennessee struck for two runs in the top of the second. Following a Miller out, Justin Guidry singled and reached third on double by Robertson. A squeeze play by Ford brought Guidry for the first score of the game. Burnett hit into a fielder's choice to score Robertson and put Middle Tennessee up 2-0. Jacksonville State (4-7) took the lead with a five-run frame in the bottom half of the second. Jake Sharrock led off

the inning with a double, and Daniel Adamson followed him up with a home run to center. A walk, infield single and a batter getting hit by pitch loaded the bases with one out for Bert Smith, who hit into a fielder's choice to score Jay Davis. Another walk loaded the bases again, and Andrew Edge singled to score both Blake Seguin and Smith. JSU would tack on two more runs in the fifth. Edge started off with a double, and a one out triple by Adamson that narrowly got by a diving Brentz in center scored Edge and prompted a pitching change. Hunter Dawson entered the game for the Blue Raiders, and gave up a single to Sam Eberle to put the Gamecocks up 7-2. Eric Gilley took over relief duties and recorded the final two outs. Middle Tennessee cut the deficit to two in the top half of the sixth. Drew Robertson led the inning off with a walk, but was picked off. Ford followed him up with a hit, and after an out by Burnett, Hudson homered to left. Brentz reached second when Sharrock dropped a fly ball in right field. A throwing error by Smith allowed Brentz to score the final run of the frame. The Gamecocks answered with two more runs in the bottom of the sixth. A double by Cunningham was followed up by a single by Smith to score JSU's first run. Smith stole second and a groundout by Leach advanced him to third to chase Gilley from the game. Kevin Whittaker came in for the Blue Raiders, and a wild pitch allowed Smith to score. Whittaker struck out the final two batters of the inning. A lead-off home run by Burnett in the eighth brought the deficit back to three, 6-9. The Blue Raiders were outhit for the second consecutive day 12-11. Each team committed two errors. Middle Tennessee will end its six-game road swing on Tuesday at Belmont. First pitch at Shelby Park is slated for 1 p.m.

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