

Brentz ties career home run record

Blue Raiders fall to Tennessee 8-6

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Junior Bryce Brentz tied the career home run record on Wednesday afternoon in an 8-6 loss to Tennessee at Reese Smith Jr. Field. The Knoxville, Tenn., native ended the day 2 for 4 with two RBI and two runs scored after knocking two balls out of the park. Brentz now has 51 home runs in his career tying him with former Blue Raider Rawley Bishop on the all-time list. His home runs were in consecutive at bats which was the first time a Blue Raider had done it since junior



Justin Miller on March 2 at Southern Illinois. Middle Tennessee had nine hits on the day with senior Drew Robertson going 2 for 3. Junior Will Skinner hit a home run in the game as the Blue Raiders' first three runs in the game were off the long ball. Blue Raider freshman Hunter Adkins received the start on the mound working five innings allowing three runs on three hits with five strikeouts. Senior Tyler Hyde took the loss after allowing four runs on three hits in one-third of an inning of work. "Hunter Adkins is going to be a very good pitcher. I thought he had good stuff and dominated their lineup when he was in the strike zone. He kept himself in trouble getting his pitch count up and if he had kept it down he might have made it to the sixth. I wasn't going to run him past there and get his pitch count way up," head coach Steve Peterson said. Middle Tennessee used five pitchers who struggled at times with five wild pitches, five walks and three hit batters. Tennessee's pitching staff did not have any walks or wild pitches as Steve Crnkovich took the win. Crnkovich allowed two runs on three hits in five innings of work. "I thought Tennessee outplayed us on the mound and played excellent small ball. They bunt down and after a double laid a bunt down and we don't get an out. Our third baseman, catcher and pitcher miss communicated and you have got to get an out there. Its one thing to execute a bunt but you have to get an out. That led to extra runners on base which in turn led to runs," Peterson said. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the first, Brentz, with two outs, hit a home run to left field just in fair territory to tie the game at 1. Brentz did it again in the third inning putting the Blue Raiders up 2-1 and tying the career home run record with 51. Will Skinner opened the fourth inning with a long ball to left center giving the Blue Raiders a two run lead. With Miller at first base, Ford hit a bunt single and then advanced to second on a throwing error. Miller scored from second before Ford was out a third on the play to end the inning. Middle Tennessee scored two runs on two hits taking a 4-1 lead. Tennessee answered quickly scoring two runs in the top of the fifth and one in the seventh to tie the game at 4. Meinhart pinch hit for Ford in the bottom of the seventh and

his single up the middle scored Acker, pinch running for Robertson, giving the Blue Raiders a 5-4 lead. A two run home run by Thurber in the eighth put the Vols back on top by one, 6-5. The Vols padded their lead with two more runs after a wild pitch and a single. Tennessee ended the inning scoring four runs on four hits for an 8-5 lead. Guidry closed the gap in the eighth as his double to deep right field brought in McDade from first, 8-6. The Blue Raiders will open Sun Belt action on Friday, March 12 at 3 p.m. when they play host to UL-Monroe in a three-game series.

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