

Guidry guides Blue Raider offense against South Alabama

Pitching and defense struggle in 10-7 loss Friday night

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Sophomore Justin Guidry guided the Blue Raider offense on Friday night in a 10-7 loss to South Alabama in the series opener. Guidry went 5 for 5 on the day becoming the first Blue Raider since Zach Barrett to post five hits in a game. The Mount Juliet, native ended the day with a double, home run, three RBI and scored two runs. Guidry was just a triple short of the cycle as he was the second player in two weeks who was just one part away from accomplishing the feat. "Justin had a great day swinging the bat. Knowing Justin he won't say much about it because we didn't win but he had an outstanding ball game. He really competed well at the plate, battling hard and had some at bats where he got down in the count but kept battling and pulled through," head coach Steve Peterson said.



The Blue Raiders had just one less hit than South Alabama with 15 but had four errors on the defensive side of the ball. Juniors Tyler Burnett and Justin Miller each had three hits on the day as Burnett hit a home runs and Miller recorded two doubles and drove in two runs. Senior Kenneth Roberts took the loss the mound after allowing 10 runs, seven earned, on 15 hits with three strikeouts in six innings of work. Redshirt freshman Joey McClung entered the game in relief allowing just one hit in three innings of work with three strikeouts. "We just got beat on pitching and defense. We had crucial errors on misplayed balls that allowed South Alabama to keep stay out of double play situations. They were very good in advancing runners and putting the ball in play. Kenny wasn't at his sharpest and so South Alabama was like sharks in the water. They took advantage of him and our poor defense and were able to put a lot of runs up," Peterson said. South Alabama's D.D. Hanks took the win after working a complete

nine innings allowing seven runs, six earned, on 15 hits with nine strikeouts. At the plate, three Jaguars posted three hits in the game as all but one of their hits were singles. South Alabama began the game strong scoring two runs in the first and adding another three runs on four hits in the second to jump out to a 5-0 lead through two innings. Skinner singled to left with two outs in the second to bring in Guidry from second and put a run on the board for the Blue Raiders. The Jags added a run in the third but Middle Tennessee responded adding two runs on four hits in the third to cut the lead to three, 6-3. With a full count and a number of fouled off pitches Guidry got a hold of one and put the lead back at three, 7-4. South Alabama scored three runs on four hits in the sixth inning pulling ahead 10-4. Trailing 10-5 in the bottom of the eighth Burnett hit a home run. The Blue Raiders will play a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. The second game of the doubleheader will begin 30 minutes after the first. The two teams are playing a Saturday doubleheader due to predicted inclement weather in the Murfreesboro area on Sunday, March 28.

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