Blue Raiders split Saturday doubleheader

Miller leads offense against Jaguars

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee split its doubleheader with South Alabama on Saturday winning the first game 19-10 but lost the second 15-0 as the Jaguars won the series 2-1. Junior Justin Miller ended the day 4 for 9 with eight RBI, two doubles, two home runs and scored two runs. In the first game, he tied the school record for RBI in a game with eight after hitting two three-run home runs. Junior Tyler Burnett also performed well on the day going 4 for 9 with two runs scored while senior Blake McDade went 3 for 4 with a double and two RBI. The Blue Raiders had 17 hits in the first game but recorded just four in the second game two of which were for extra bases. "When you play doubleheaders you have to forget the first game. It was a Tale of Two Cities today. From the eighth inning of the first game to the seven innings of the second game we were a different ballclub. Lance Baxter had a lot to do with it. He is a good left-handed pitcher and is tough; when Kenny Roberts is on he is a lot like Kenny Roberts. We stopped playing defense and made crucial errors and had bad pitches," head coach Steve Peterson said. "You have to credit South Alabama they were going after groundballs and making plays. We lost momentum in the eighth inning of the first game. I am not one to gage momentum but I could see our club change. When adversity hit early in the second game we just didn't emotionally come back." Freshman Hunter Adkins took the loss in the second game after allowing six runs, three runs, on four hits in 1.1 innings of work. Junior Chad Edwards took the win in the first game after working seven innings allowing five runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts. Middle Tennessee had five errors as a team in the two games and in the second game recorded two in the first inning. South Alabama took advantage of two Blue Raider errors in the first inning scoring three runs to begin the game 3-0. The Jags added another three runs on three hits in the second for a six run lead after two innings. In the third, South

Alabama scored seven runs on six hits to extend its lead to 13. Middle Tennessee allowed the Jags to score just two runs in the fourth and held them scoreless for the rest of the game. In the opening game of the doubleheader, with two outs and runners at first and second in the bottom of the first, Miller hit a double to deep left center bringing in the runners and putting the Blue Raiders up 2-0. Darlington led off the second with a first pitch home run extending the lead to three. The Blue Raiders had a two out rally which included a three-run shot to left field by Miller. Middle Tennessee jumped out 8-0 after scoring six runs on four hits in the second inning. South Alabama's Laird hit a two-run home run to left field in the fourth to cut the Blue Raider lead to six. Miller hit another three run home run in his next at bat extending the Blue Raider lead to nine. The last Blue Raider to hit a home run in consecutive at-bats was Bryce Brentz against Tennessee on March 10, 2010. Middle Tennessee plated six more runs in the fourth inning on seven hits making it 14-2. The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Tuesday, March 30 when they travel to Clarksville, Tenn., to face Austin Peay. Middle Tennessee will play host to Lipscomb on Wednesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. before traveling to Boca Raton, Fla., to face Florida Atlantic in a three-game weekend series.

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