Hudson homer hands Blue Raiders win

Senior ends night 4 for 5 after walk-off hit

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Senior Zach Hudson hit a walk-off home run to right field in the bottom of the 12th inning to give the Blue Raiders a 21-20 win over Lipscomb in the waning hours of Wednesday night. Hudson reached base seven of eight times going 4 for 5 with two walks, a home run, double, two RBI and scored three runs. The Nashville, Tenn., native scored a run after reaching on a hit in the ninth inning rally in which the Blue Raiders scored five runs to force extra innings. Hudson was the leadoff batter in the 12th inning. "Most of the game the pitching was very poor but it did come down to their ace reliever and he threw very well. Zach Hudson, what a huge hit, when he first hit it I didn't think he got enough of it but it looked like it was 450 feet. He had some other big at bats and I'm proud of him," head coach Steve Peterson said. Sophomore Justin Guidry's two RBI double to left field with two outs in the ninth tied the game. Guidry ended the night 5 for 8 with five RBI and scored two runs. It was his second five hit game with his last coming just five games ago. Junior Hunter Dawson posted his first win on the mound as a Blue Raider after playing third base for 11 innings. Dawson allowed no runs or hits in one and one-thirds of an inning and struck out

two batters. The Atoka, Tenn., native started the game at third base, with junior Tyler Burnett being the designated hitter, and went 1 for 6 at the plate with two walks and scored two runs. "All-in-all it wasn't a pretty played baseball game as far as the most important part of the game, pitching, but then it got down to a one run ballgame. It did get down to pitching and I am very proud of how Hunter Dawson came in and did what he had to. There was one stretch in his last inning where he made a couple of bad pitches. I know he doesn't want to give up a big hit but in that situation you just have to go after it. He came back, adjusted a little bit and came back to get his first win as a Blue Raider," Peterson said. Middle Tennessee used six pitchers in the game with freshman Hunter Atkins posting the longest outing of the staff. Atkins worked 3.2 innings allowing three runs on four hits with three strikeouts. The Blue Raiders posted 24 hits in the game with everyone in the starting line-up recording at least one hit. Junior Justin Miller went 4 for 7 with two home runs, five RBI and scored three runs while junior Will Skinner ended the night 3 for 6 with a home run, two doubles, four RBI and scored three runs. Senior Blake McDade added three hits of his own and scored five of Middle Tennessee's runs. Lipscomb posted 22 hits in the game with the two teams scoring in every inning except the sixth and eighth in regulation. The two teams then did not score for three innings after the ninth until Hudson's game winner. Lipscomb started the scoring early putting up three runs on four hits in the top of the first. With two outs and runners at first and third, Will Skinner hit a home run to left center giving the Blue Raiders a 4-3 lead. Dawson scored earlier in the inning to put the first run on the board. Middle Tennessee took a 5-3 lead in the first after scoring the runs on six hits. Miller hit a long ball to left field in the second bringing in two more runs for Middle Tennessee. Lipscomb's T. Wilson hit a ball to deep right center between the right fielder and the centerfielder to score the two base runners and himself. Wilson's hit gave the Bisons an 8-7 lead in the third inning. The Blue Raiders were quick to respond as Miller scored McDade, who reached on an error, with his single. Then Miller scored after a single to left center by Guidry which handed Middle Tennessee back the lead, 9-8. Lipscomb hit two home runs in the top of the fourth to take a two-run lead, 11-9. In the fifth they broke the game open scoring five runs on four hits for a 16-10 lead. Trailing 17-11 in the bottom of the seventh Miller hit a two run home run to left center and then with a runner at first Skinner hit a double to the left field corner adding another run and cutting the Bison lead to three, 17-14. Middle Tennessee added one more run ending the inning scoring four runs on six hits, 17-15. Burnett stepped to the plate with two outs and a runner at first and hit a home run to the right field line for his first hit in the game. The home run cut the Lipscomb lead to two, 20-18. Then with the bases loaded Guidry hit a ball to the gap in left center driving in two runs and tying the game at 20. The Blue Raiders ended the inning scoring five runs on five hits and forced extra innings. The Blue Raiders travel to Boca Raton, Fla., to face Florida Atlantic in a three-game Sun Belt Conference weekend series. Friday night's game is schedule for 5:30 p.m., Saturday is set for 3 p.m. while Sunday's game is set for 11 a.m. All times listed are central with Sunday's game being played earlier than originally scheduled due to Middle Tennessee's travel schedule.

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