

Blue Raiders take 10-6 win Saturday

Burnett, Guidry hit big home runs

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BOCA RATON, Fla. - Middle Tennessee's bats came alive in the sixth inning and never looked back propelling the Blue Raiders to a 10-6 win over FAU on Saturday afternoon knotting the weekend series at 1. The Blue Raiders were hitless through six but a home run by junior Tyler Burnett started the scoring and two big innings handed the team the win. Middle Tennessee scored four in the sixth and six in the eighth ending the game with 10 hits. "Once we got to Gipson he made some mistakes and got some balls up and we got some good extra base hits. Guidry's home run was huge and the way the wind is blowing the ball is really going to go to right field. He got one up and down the line and that really got us going," head coach Steve



Peterson said. "We have been a big inning team this year but the bottom of the order did some manufacturing in those two innings and I was very proud to see that. For five innings it was really bad from the seventh, eighth and ninth spots down." Burnett ended the game 2 for 5 with two RBI while senior Blake McDade added two hits of his own with a double and scored two runs. Senior Chad Edwards took the win after working eight innings allowing five runs on five hits with seven strikeouts. Junior Hunter Dawson picked up the first save of his career catching a line drive against the only batter he faced. "What a great pitching match-up for five innings. Everything we heard about Mike Gipson was fulfilled and he was eating our lunch. I am not from Boca Raton but this is the first time we have been in any kind of humidity and I can see where Roberts had to get a second wind early. I talked to Chad about it and we adjusted his pregame a little bit but it was a great match-up. Chad gave up one solo home run and that happens. He lost his concentration there and we were very fortunate to get out of that inning without anymore damage. After that inning he settled down and I ran his pitch count pretty high because he was feeling good and wanted to go the distance,"

Peterson said. Sophomore Justin Guidry drove in three of Middle Tennessee's 10 runs on the day with his home run to right field while Burnett and senior Stuart Meinhart also posted two RBI. Edwards allowed just one hit through the bottom of the third with two outs but then Church hit a solo shot to right field to put the Owls on the board. Burnett broke-up the no hitter Gipson had going with his solo shot to right centerfield in the top of the sixth to knot the score at 1. A hit batter and a single later, Guidry fouled off a few pitches before sending one over the fence down the right field line giving the Blue Raiders a three-run lead. The Blue Raiders took a 4-1 lead in the sixth after scoring four runs on three hits. FAU answered quickly with Scheffler hitting a two-run home run on the first pitch he saw to cut the Blue Raider lead to one, 4-3. McDade's RBI double in the top of the eighth made it a two run game in favor of Middle Tennessee. The next batter, Miller, also doubled to left adding another run for the Blue Raiders. Then with runners at first and second, Meinhart hit the third double to left field of the inning adding two more runs to the board. The Blue Raiders scored four runs with no outs and two runs with one out in the eighth inning scoring six total runs on seven hits for a seven run lead, 10-3. Church hit his second home run of the game in the ninth this time for three runs closing the gap to four, 10-6. The Blue Raiders will play the rubber game of the series with the Owls starting at 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 4 with Dick Palmer calling the action.

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