

Softball takes series finale at North Texas

Dortch blasts team leading fourth home run

April 11, 2010 · Christian Lemon

DENTON, Texas -Two home runs and excellent pitching from Lindsey Vander Lugt was enough to lift the Middle Tennessee softball team to a 4-2 decision over the North Texas Mean Green in the series finale, Sunday. The team moves to 14-19 on the year, 5-10 in conference play.

Two early inning home runs off the bats of Kaycee Popham and Kelsey Dortch gave Vander Lugt enough run support to get her 13th win of the season. The Olympia Wash., native threw all seven innings, striking out two giving up no walks. She allowed one earned run.

In the victory, the Blue Raiders tallied nine hits with two errors, leaving nine runners on base. North Texas totaled eight hits allowing one error with five left on base.



Popham's two-run homer was her second in as many days giving the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead after one inning. Corrie Abel set the table with a lead-off hit to provide the extra run. For the day, Abel went 2-3 with a double and a walk.

North Texas retaliated bringing one runner across the plate on a wild throw in the second.

Dortch smacked Middle Tennessee's second homerun of the game giving her a team leading four on the year. This is the most home runs Dortch has hit in a single season. The Milan, Tenn., native continues to hit well after a slow start to the season, slugging .615 in the last 12 games with three home runs and six RBIs.

Middle Tennessee put the pressure on in the fifth inning loading the bases with one out on a Dortch hit and two walks. Unfortunately, the team could not produce the hit to score the runners.

The squad did produce in the seventh loading the bases on hits by Abel, Popham and Jessica Ives to be score one insurance run off a Kandra Singleton single to right extending what would the final score to 4-2.

"Today was an important win for us," said head coach Sue Nevar. "We must start taking some conference games to give ourselves a chance to make the post-season tournament. No squad is safe every team can win against any team."

Middle Tennessee will return to action on Thursday as they travel to Memphis to take on the Tigers in a non-conference doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m. The team will then host FIU on Saturday and Sunday in a pivotal conference series. Full results and coverage for all Blue Raider softball will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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