

Palo pitches well in 1-0 loss to Vandy

Freshman records best outing of career

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. -

Freshman Daniel Palo had the best outing of his young career but two errant pitches cost him the chance at the win as Middle Tennessee fell 1-0 to Vanderbilt on Tuesday night. Palo, a native of Germantown, Tenn., worked 5.1 innings allowing one run on three hits with a career high five strikeouts. Palo walked four batters and had two wild pitches. Palo's wild pitches were in the same inning and allowed the only run to score. "It's a shame about a 1-0 ballgame is that the pitcher is going to lose it. It's usually on a bad pitch or a guy hits a home run. In this situation, Palo pitched very well. It was the best performance he has had as a Blue Raider," head coach Steve Peterson said.

"He made a bad pitch to the nine-hole hitter, they sacrificed



him over and then two wild pitches and the runs scores. You'd like them to earn it a little bit more but Daniel threw very well." Vanderbilt scored the only run by either team in the sixth after a wild pitch by Palo. Gomez singled to reach, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt and then took third as well as home on wild pitches by Palo. Junior Hunter Dawson, redshirt-freshman Joey McClung and senior Kevin Whittaker worked a combined 2.2 innings in relief allowing no hits or runs. "The bullpen came in, did an excellent job and kept them at bay. Both teams struggled with the breaking ball and their pitching staff was just one run better than ours." Peterson said. Middle Tennessee posted six hits in the game, three more than the Commodores, led by sophomore Justin Guidry who ended the night 2 for 4 with a double. Senior Blake McDade had a triple and freshman Ryan Ford hit a double for the other two extra base hits for the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee left 11 runners on base in the loss and had runners in scoring position in four different innings. "We left 11 guys on base and didn't get the bunt down. We had a double and a left-handed hitter up so I let him swing. He couldn't get it on the right side. Offensively we didn't do the things you have to do to at least get the runners in scoring

position in," Peterson said. It is the first time since March 27 against South Alabama the Blue Raiders have been shutout. The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Friday, April 16 when they face Troy in Troy, Ala., in the first of a three-game weekend series. Dick Palmer will have the call throughout the weekend with all games being broadcast on WMOT xxx and goblueraiders.com.

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