Softball sweeps UT-Martin

Team on four game winning streak

April 22, 2010 · Christian Lemon

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee softball team swept a Thursday doubleheader against the UT-Martin Skyhawks winning the first contest, 2-0 before taking the second game, 7-3. The Blue Raiders are riding a four-game winning streak en route to a 19-23 record, 5-13 in Sun Belt play.

In the first game, Middle Tennessee's two runs were scored off six hits. The Blue Raiders recorded one error and left seven on base. The Skyhawks tallied six hits, no errors and left seven on base.

Lindsey Vander Lugt earned her 16th win and her eighth shutout of the season. In victory, Vander Lugt rang up six strikeouts and walked one batter.

Corrie Abel scored the first run of the game, doubling to right center and scoring on a Jessica Ives infield single. Abel is tied for the team lead in doubles. The Blue Raiders lead 1-0 after one.

Vander Lugt fought through a no-out bases loaded jam in the fourth before retiring the next three Skyhawk batters.

Abel tacked on the game's second run on a Natalie Ysais single. The game ended 2-0.

In the second game, Middle Tennessee scored seven runs off 14 hits, allowing no errors and leaving eight runners on base. UT-Martin scored two runs off nine hits. They allowed no errors and left five

runners on base.

Vander Lugt threw all seven innings striking out four and allowing no walks. She moves to 17-14 on the year with a 2.59 ERA and 164 strikeouts on 186.2 innings of work.

The Blue Raiders had their biggest inning of the season pushing across five runs in the third. Kelsey Dortch knocked a three-run triple, scoring Brittney Banania, Kandra Singleton and Caitlin McLure. Ysais ripped a double to score Dortch on the next play for her 22nd RBI of the year. Jessi Couch plated Ysais on the next play.

Vander Lugt's 10 innings of shutout ball for the day were spoiled when Laura Roberts got UT-Martin on the board with a solo-home run.

McLure tallied her 20th and 21st stolen bases of the year. She is just three steal behind MT all-time stolen base leader Jamie Polsteen. Polsteen's 69 career steals has stood as the Middle Tennessee record since 1998.

UT-Martin added two late runs in the seventh before Vander Lugt closed the door.

The Blue Raiders will travel to Bowling Green, Ky., next Wednesday to take on Western Kentucky. Full results and coverage will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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