Blue Raiders take sweep with 10-2 win

Brentz hits three-run homer in win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Junior Bryce Brentz guided the Blue Raider offense throughout the game Sunday against Southern Illinois as the team took a 10-2 win. Brentz handed Middle Tennessee a 4-2 with his three-run home run in the third and the team never looked back. The Knoxville, Tenn., native ended the day 2 for 4 with four RBI, two runs scored, a home run and a double. "I felt like we had been swinging the bats well. The way the club has been going if we have a good Friday night and Saturday is a little less then Sunday might not exist. I just said if we aren't going to hit today let's make sure it's their pitching and that we aren't beating ourselves. We swung the bats well and then Bryce with the big home run which knocked the wind out of their sails big time," head coach Steve Peterson said. Junior Tyler Acker also performed well at the plate as he went 4 for 4 with a double, and two RBI. "Throughout the lineup we had runs score and the top of the lineup got on base again today. Tyler Acker did a good job on offense as well as behind the plate and got some big hits for us," Peterson said. Senior Zach Hudson and junior Will Skinner also had two hits on the day as the Blue Raiders ended the game with 12 hits. On the mound, junior Eric Gilley improved to 5-2 after allowing just two runs, one earned, on three hits while striking out four in seven innings of work. "Anytime you beat someone three in a row and then we beat them five times this year and that is something that is not easy to do especially five games. I really respect the way my club went about it. You have to have really good pitching and today it started with Eric Gilley. He kept the ball in the strike zone and we got behind and didn't get good defense right off the bat," Peterson said. Junior Nick Montgomery worked one inning in relief giving up just one hit while senior Tyler Hyde closed out the game allowing no hits or runs in his one inning of work. With the win, Middle Tennessee swept the

weekend as well as the five-game series between the two schools as it improved to 29-18 on the season. Murphy reached third on a throwing error by Acker after a swinging strikeout. Murphy then scored on a groundout to second by Pinnon giving SIU a 1-0 lead in the first. SIU added another run in the second after Montgomery scored from second on a single to right by Harding, 2-0. Burnett scored the first run of the game for the Blue Raiders after a ball hit by Ford. Then with two outs and runners at first and second, Brentz stepped to the plate and hit a three-run home run giving the Blue Raiders a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the third. Middle Tennessee broke it open in the fifth scoring four runs on three hits to extend its lead to six, 8-2. Two more runs in the sixth made it an eight-run lead in the Blue Raiders' favor. Middle Tennessee will play its final non-conference games this week beginning with Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn., at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. Then on Wednesday, May 12 the Blue Raiders will face Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn., at 6 p.m. before returning home to face New Orleans.

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