Blue Raiders notch shutout victory to stay alive

Edwards records complete game to lead team

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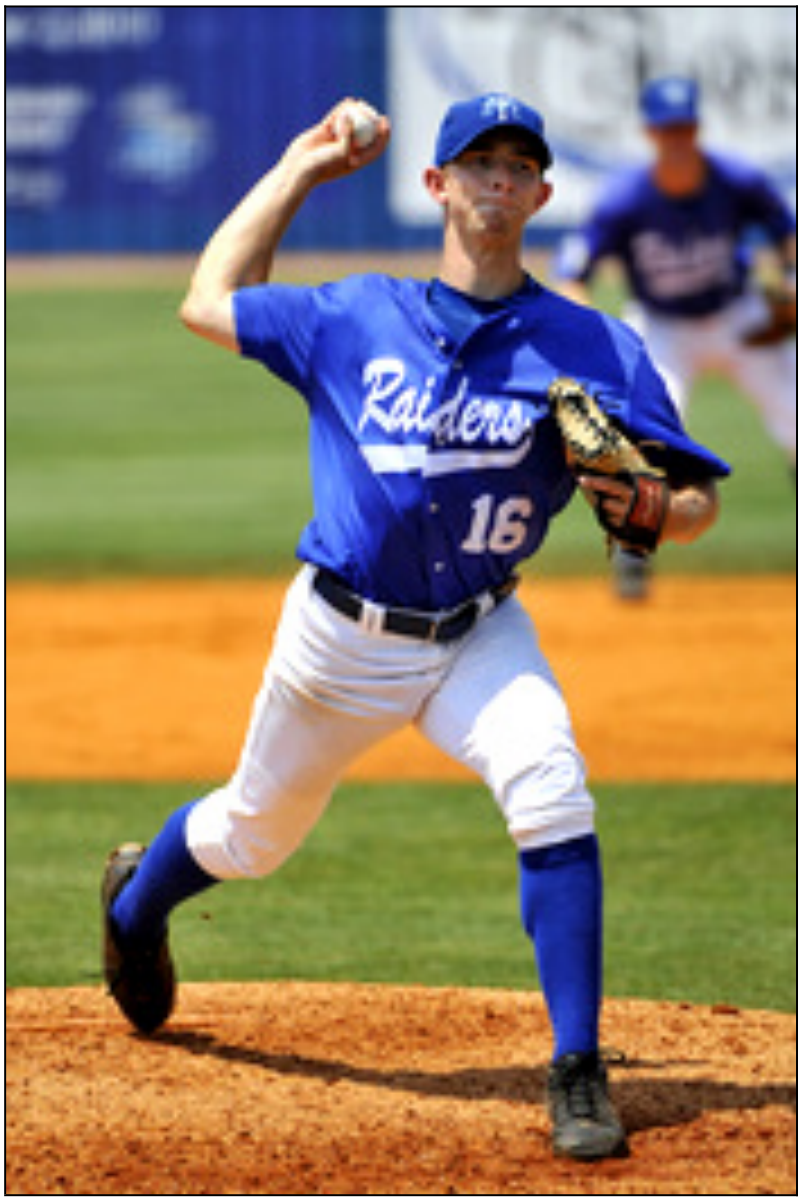

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Senior Chad Edwards put up an impressive performance in a 3-0 win over UL-Lafayette in an elimination game at the Sun Belt Championships on Thursday afternoon. Edwards came through in the clutch to keep the Blue Raiders alive working the third complete game shutout of his career. The Paducah, Ky., native allowed six hits in the outing and struck out five batters. "I have been really trying to get ahead of batters early. When you get behind 3-1 or 2-1, you have to throw fastballs. When you do that, the hitters in this conference take advantage. I have cut down on the people I've walked and gotten ahead early and made them hit my pitches," Edwards said. "There is not a burden. It is always in the back of your mind, but I have a good team behind me. I did not want this to be my last college baseball game I played in." The Blue Raiders took the field just 10 hours and 47 minutes after Wednesday night's late affair with Troy which ended at 2 a.m. It marks the first time since the Blue Raiders first competed in a SBC Tournament game in 2001 they have won a second-round elimination game after dropping a first-round contest the previous day. "We stayed alive today. I wanted our team to know how UL-Lafayette has shown that they are a better team than us, earlier in the year at their place. This was our chance to show we could get a little revenge. We did not want to roll over after getting beat up so bad last night," head coach Steve Peterson said. "This is the way baseball is. When you are down, something else will get on you. I told my team to compete against

Zach Osborne. He has really beaten us up. All and all, it was great team effort with the star award going to Chad Edwards." Senior Blake McDade's solo home run in the third started things off for Middle Tennessee and it never looked back. McDade ended the game 2 for 3. Sophomore Justin Guidry also had two hits on the day while junior Will Skinner drove in a run with his only hit. The Blue Raiders had seven hits on the day while the Ragin' Cajuns had six with Jordan Poirrier and Justin Robichaux each recording two hits. The Blue Raiders added another run in the sixth after a single to left by Skinner scored Brentz from second, 2-0. In the seventh, Middle Tennessee scored its third run of the game in an unconventional way as Ford scored from third on a balk by ULL's Osbourne. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Friday, May 28 at 12:30 p.m. when they play the loser of Troy vs. Arkansas State, which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday night. With a win the Blue Raiders will advance to the 7:30 p.m. game and would play the winner of Troy vs. Arkansas State.

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