

White Hits Three-Run Homer in Split With WKU

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -

Middle Tennessee softball (10-28-1, 1-1 SBC) split with Western Kentucky (20-18, 1-1 SBC) winning the first game 5-4 and losing the second game 7-3 Saturday at WKU Softball Field in the Sun Belt Conference opener.

In game one, with the game tied at four, Middle Tennessee would score what would be the winning run in the top of the eighth inning. With the bases loaded, catcher Brandi Boehner hit an RBI single over second base to score Muriel Ledbetter who led the rally with a one out walk. Middle Tennessee loaded the bases when Melissa Weiland reached first on a Western Kentucky error and Martha Davis singled.

Trish White, who came into the game in relief in the top of the seventh, tossed two scoreless innings and picked up the win in the game. Sophomore hurler Ashley Katinas started the game, going six innings allowing four runs on 10 hits.

Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky battled through four scoreless innings before the Hilltoppers scored. With one out, Jennifer Brooks hit a single to right field and made it all the way to third base. Bailey Rolfs hit an RBI single to score Brooks.

Middle Tennessee looked like it might have something cooking in the top of the sixth inning. Katinas led off the inning by getting on base thanks to a Western Kentucky error and moved all the way to third base on the error. Shelby Stiner picked up her second hit of the game to place runners at the corners. With the double steal on, Stiner swiped her second base of the game, but Katinas was picked off for the first out of the inning. Justine Cerda and Katie Mielke popped up to the left fielder to



end the Blue Raider threat.

Western Kentucky tacked on three runs in its half of the sixth inning when pinch hitter Amanda Ford-Feitz hit a three run homer over the centerfield wall.

In the top of the seventh inning, Muriel Ledbetter hit a lead-off homerun over the left field wall, her seventh homerun of the season, to start the Middle Tennessee rally. Weiland and Davis followed with back-to-back singles and Middle Tennessee was down to its last out when pinch hitter White stepped into the batter's box. With two strikes, White hit a three run homerun over the left centerfield wall to tie the game at four.

Stiner led the squad in game one going 3-for-4 and was also a perfect 2-for-2 in stolen bases. White's homerun was her second of the season and third of her career.

It was all Western Kentucky in game two. As Middle Tennessee struggled through the limitations of its roster, it was evident the Blue Raider pitching staff tired due to the strains put upon it as Katinas gave up five runs before she was replaced by White in the third inning.

The Hilltoppers picked up one run in the first inning of the second game to lead 1-0. In the second inning, Western Kentucky's Rebecca Horesky hit a grand slam to put WKU 5-0 after two innings.

Middle Tennessee battled back for two runs in the fifth inning. Boehner was hit by Western Kentucky pitcher Jennifer Kemp to lead off the inning. With two outs, Stiner reached first and then advanced to second off a Hilltopper error that allowed Boehner to score. Davis' RBI single plated Stiner for the second run of the inning.

Western Kentucky got the two runs they gave up to the Blue Raiders in the fourth in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Two Western Kentucky miscues allowed the Blue Raiders to pick up a run in the sixth inning. Weiland reached first on a Hilltopper error and moved to third when Cerda hit a double. The second WKU miscue of the inning allowed Weiland to score and the batter Boehner reach first and move to second.

Katinas took the loss in game two, falling to 2-6 on the season. Davis led the Blue Raiders in game two going 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Middle Tennessee wraps up its three-game series with Western Kentucky on Sunday. The single game of the series begins at 12 p.m. at WKU Softball Field.

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