

High-scoring season-opener for Softball

Freshman Dever tallies six RBIs

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - It was a record-breaking season-opener for the Middle Tennessee softball team Sunday, as the team combined for 29 total runs with visitor Murray State in the first half of the doubleheader. The Blue Raiders won the first contest 16-13 before falling 3-2 in the second game.

After spotting the Racers eight runs in the first four innings, the Blue Raiders exploded, scoring a program-record 12 runs in a single inning. The team blasted 10 hits with nine RBIs. The frame was highlighted by freshman Nina Dever smashing a grand slam home run. The Greenbrier, Tenn., native tallied five RBIs in the game. This is just the fifth time an MT batter has stroked five RBIs in a game.

Nina Davenport made the defensive play of the game, making a diving catch in leftfield to prevent a bases-clearing double in the sixth inning.

Pitcher Caty Jutson set a career record in strikeouts, ringing up seven MSU hitters. Jutson recorded her first win of the season. Robinson earned the save of her career.

"It was wild first game," head coach Sue Nevar said. "We put a lot of runs on the board, but we cannot give up that many on a consistent basis and hope to win."

Sixteen runs are the most scored by an MT team on opening day and third-most in a game.



Sunday's win is the team's first season-opening victory since 2008 when the team topped Georgetown in Sue Nevar's first win.

In the second game, Dever got the Raiders on the board in the first inning of game two working a bases-loaded walk to drive in Corrie Abel from third. Kayee Popham got her third RBI of the doubleheader in the following at bat.

The Racers would drive in the winning in the fourth with back-to-back doubles to take the lead 3-2.

MT put together consecutive hits in the bottom the seventh with two outs. Natalie Ysais would fly out to end the game.

Robinson, although saddled with the lose, pitched a stellar seven full innings setting a career-high with nine strikeouts.

The team will return to action next weekend as they travel to Tallahassee, Fla., to compete in FSU's Garnet and Gold Games. Live radio and full post-game coverage will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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