

Martin Homers Twice in 13-4 Triumph

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Todd Martin doubled, homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs, while Jeff Beachum added three hits and three runs scored in Middle Tennessee's 13-4 victory Wednesday night at Reese Smith Field. Martin homered in the second and eighth innings, his seventh and eighth of the season, and doubled in the seventh, leading the Blue Raiders (15-13) to their seventh win in nine games. Beachum singled and scored in his final three at-bats, as Middle Tennessee scored 12 runs in its final five at-bats to even the season series with the visiting Bruins. Tyler

Copeland (2-1) worked five innings for the Blue Raiders to get the win, allowing three runs on five hits. The lefthander walked two, hit one and struck out three. Allan Woodward tossed two shutout innings, striking out three. Shay Horseman pitched to one batter and Peter Mantzanis got the final five outs. Belmont starter Ryan Ashner (1-2) suffered the loss, though he deserved batter. Ashner gave up four runs, one earned, on just two hits in four innings, walking one and striking out one. The Bruins (16-18) used six hurlers in the game, with Jon Camp allowing two runs in one inning and Chris Marlow giving up three runs in 1.1 innings. Belmont plated an unearned run in the second after Ben Petsch reached on a throwing error by Beachum and moved to second. A single from Derek Wiley moved the runner to third and Brady Manifold's single to right plated Petsch. But the Blue Raiders tied the game in the bottom of the inning when Martin blasted a solo homer over the 24-foot wall in centerfield, tying the score at one. Middle Tennessee took advantage of a two-out error to score three times in the fourth. Michael McKenry was hit with one out and Martin followed with a walk. With two outs Josh Horn's grounder went right through the wickets of BU shortstop Matt Reynolds, allowing a run to score. Marcus Taylor then sliced a double down the leftfield line, scoring a pair of runs for a 4-1 lead. The Bruins came right back with a pair of runs, starting with leadoff walks to Sam Grooms and Aaron Lautman. A double from Kane Simmons plated one run and Tucker Wilson's single to left scored Lautman, cutting the Blue Raider lead to 4-3. Middle Tennessee got both runs back in the bottom of the inning when Beachum singled to leadoff, stole second and scored on Wayne Kendrick's single to rightcenter. After a walk to McKenry and a groundout, Kendrick scored on a wild pitch for a 6-3 advantage. The Blue Raiders added three more runs in the

seventh after Beachum led off with a single and Kendrick and McKenry walked to load the bases. Martin's double scored a pair and Horn's single off the pitcher's glove scored another for a 9-3 Middle Tennessee lead. In the eighth Chase Eakes reached on an error and Beachum collected his third hit with a single to right. A balk moved the runners up and a single to short center from Nathan Hines scored pinch-runner Doug Birkofer. Kendrick then lined out to right and the throw to the plate from Tucker sailed well over the catcher's head, allowing Beachum to score. Martin then hit his second homer of the game, a two-run shot to rightfield, for a 13-3 advantage. The Bruins had three straight walks before an infield pinch-hit single from Barrett Owen plated a run. Middle Tennessee hosts Western Kentucky this weekend starting Friday with a 7 p.m. contests. The Blue Raiders and Hilltoppers square off Saturday at 4 p.m. and again Sunday at 1 p.m. **GAME NOTES**

Tyler Copeland made the start on the mound, his first midweek start since an April 5 contest at Austin Peay last year ... Todd Martin extended his hitting streak to four games with a solo homer in the second. Martin homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs ... Jeff Beachum extended his hitting streak to six games with a single in the fifth ... Wayne Kendrick extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a single in the fifth ... Josh Horn extended his hitting streak to seven games with a single in the seventh.

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