

Popham hits two-run bomb in 6-4 defeat

Second homer of the series for junior

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MIAMI - Kaycee Popham blasted her second home run of the mid-week conference series with FIU on Wednesday as the Blue Raiders dropped a 6-4 contest to move to 5-16 on the season, 0-3 in conference.

The Golden Panthers took an early lead in the bottom of the first after blanking the Blue Raiders in the top half of the side. Back-to-back sacrifice flies by FIU sluggers Ashley McClain and Brie Rojas gave the Panthers a 2-0 lead after one.

FIU put three more runs up in the third off solo home runs by Jessi Alfonso, Rojas and Kayla Burri as the home team took a 5-0 lead.

Kelsey Dortch broke the Panther shut-out in the fourth, singling to left to score Kayla Toney from third. Toney advanced to third from second and Natalie Ysais took second from on a wild pitch. Toney previously singled and Ysais was hit by a pitch. This was the lone Raider run scored on the side.

Nina Dever pulled the Raiders within three after five, when she roped a double to left-center field to score Nina Davenport from second. This was Dever's ninth RBI on the season and Davenport's team leading 13th run scored.

The Blue Raiders looked to kick down the door in the sixth as Ysais opened the side with a single followed by Popham's homer. Dortch would then single and Jessi Couch and Corrie Abel worked walks. Dever came to bat with two outs. The freshman sent what looked to be a sure double into the



gap, but a great diving catch by McClain killed the side.

In her sixth loss of the season, Jordyn Fisherback gave up five runs off six hits in 2.2 innings of work. She had one strikeout and no walks. Katy Jutson came on in relief, going 3.1 innings and giving up just one run on four hits. Jutson had one strikeout.

The Blue Raiders return to action on Friday as they continue their conference schedule at home. They will play host to the North Texas Mean Green. Live coverage and audio will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com and well as Twitter.com/MT_Softball.

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