

FAU big inning spells doom for Blue Raiders

Guidry notches three hits in 12-4 loss

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BOCA RATON, Fla. - Florida Atlantic mounted a sixth inning rally scoring five runs to take its first lead of the game and Middle Tennessee never recovered falling 12-4 on Friday night at FAU Stadium. The Blue Raiders (5-14, 0-4) used three pitchers in the sixth as sophomore Daniel Palo, the starter, left with no outs after issuing base on balls to the first two batters of the inning. Senior Hunter Dawson struck out Sean Bukovich to record the final out of the inning. Palo would take the loss falling to 0-3 on the season after allowing five runs on two hits in five innings of work. The Germantown, Tenn., native performed well through the first four innings allowing just one hit but hit FAU's Dan Scheffler in the batting helmet on a high pitch and never recovered. Middle Tennessee



had 10 hits in the game with junior Justin Guidry going 3 for 4 with a double and scored two runs. Freshman Hank LaRue went 2 for 5 with a double, triple and scored a run. Senior Will Skinner and sophomore Ryan Ford also had two hits in the game. FAU also had 10 hits on the night with Nick Delguidice going 3 for 5 with a double and drove in three runs. When the Owls got the lead, they received solid pitching from Jake Meiers who picked up his first save of the season after allowing just two hits in three innings of work. Middle Tennessee put its first run on the board early as Stephens singled straight up the middle to centerfield allowing Skinner to score from third, 1-0. Then with one out, Drake hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield allowing Guidry to score from third and make it a two-run lead. The Blue Raiders ended the second scoring two runs on three hits to take an early 2-0 lead. LaRue tripled to straightaway centerfield to open the third. Acker grounded out to first in the next at bat allowing LaRue to score and extend the Blue Raider lead, 3-0. FAU answered in the fourth with a two-out bases loaded double to short left centerfield by Delguidice allowing Mee and Scheffler to score making it a one-run game, 3-2. The Owls tied the game at 3 in the fifth when Gratton scored

from third after a wild pitch by Palo. Gratton received a base on balls to reach, stole second and then advanced to third on a bad throw by Acker trying to throw him out. Guidry doubled to open the sixth inning and then scored on a single right center by Ford breaking the tie and putting the Blue Raiders back up 4-3. FAU quickly answered as Burkhalter doubled to deep left center bringing in Bukovic from second and knotting the score at 4 in the bottom of the inning. Then Gratton singled to right scoring Cassidy from third and giving the Owls their first lead, 5-4. Church's sac fly to right scored Burkhalter from third and added a run for FAU. Albaladejo doubled to deep left field adding another run and giving FAU a three-run lead. FAU ended the inning scoring five runs on four hits to take an 8-4 lead. The Owls added four runs on three hits in the eighth to take its lead out to eight, 12-4. Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Saturday, March 26 in game two of the weekend series with Florida Atlantic. First pitch Saturday is set for 3 p.m.

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