Softball falls to ULM

Abel goes 4-7 on the day

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MONROE, La. - The Middle Tennessee dropped both games of its Saturday doubleheader at ULM. The team moves to 9-18 on the year, 3-5 in Sun Belt play.

Both loses were close with the Warhawks winning the first game 9-8 and the second 5-3. MT led both contests.

The Blue Raiders wasted no time lighting up the scoreboard in the first inning of the opening contest, scoring two runs off one hit and three Warhawk errors. Kelsey Dortch reached first on a bang-bang errors before Brittney Banania moved her on a sac bunt. After Dortch scored on a ULM error, Corrie Abel knocked her 11th double of the season. Banania scored on the play, giving Abel her 18th RBI of the season.

After ULM took one back in the bottom of the first, Nina Dever sent a towering shot over the leftfield wall for her third homer of the season. Banania later single to drive in Nina Davenport to originally single, then stole second and moved to third on a throwing error. This was Banania's fifth RBI on the season. Kaycee Popham drove in the Abel who reached first on a fielder's choice. Middle Tennessee led 5-1 after two innings.

The scrappy Warhawks roared back in the bottom of the third, scoring five runs off five hits and an MT error. ULM added two more in the fifth to put the score 8-5.

Middle Tennessee fought back in the sixth, scoring three in the frame to tie the score 8-8. Nina Davenport and Dortch led off with back-to-back singles, before Kelsey Woodruff drove in Davenport

for her third RBI of the year. Later in the side, Kaycee Popham notched a sacrifice fly to score Dortch. Ysais knotted the game on the next at-bat with an RBI-single.

ULM refused to go away and won the game 8-9 on a wild play.

From the circle, Middle Tennessee starter Jordyn Fisherback went two innings, before Caty Jutson came to relieve with a 5-4. In Jutson's fifth loss of the season, she went 4.2 innings, giving up nine hits and three earned runs.

In the second game, Abel got the Raiders on the board first with an RBI-single, driving home Dortch.

The Shorewood, Ill., native tacked on another RBI and double in the third, scoring Banania. Banania reached earlier on a walk. MT led 2-1 after three.

Popham added a third run in the fifth on a single to second with the bases-loaded. Dortch scored to move the total to 3-1. Banania and Abel also recorded hits in the inning.

As they did earlier, ULM opened up in the sixth inning, taking four runs off four hits and a Blue Raider error.

The Blue Raiders did not have answer in the seventh and fell with the final score being 5-3.

In the lose, Janele Robinson went the distance, giving up eight hits and five earned runs. She had three strikeouts and two walks.

The Blue Raiders will play the finale of the series of the 2011 Sun Belt series with ULM tomorrow at 1 p.m. Live stats will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com and Twitter.com/MT_Softball.

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