

Beachum's Five Hits Lead 15-3 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Jeff Beachum had a career-high five hits, scoring three times and driving in three runs, and Middle Tennessee scored eight times in the first inning en route to a 15-3 victory over Memphis Tuesday night at Reese Smith Field. The start of the game was delayed 47 minutes because of rain.

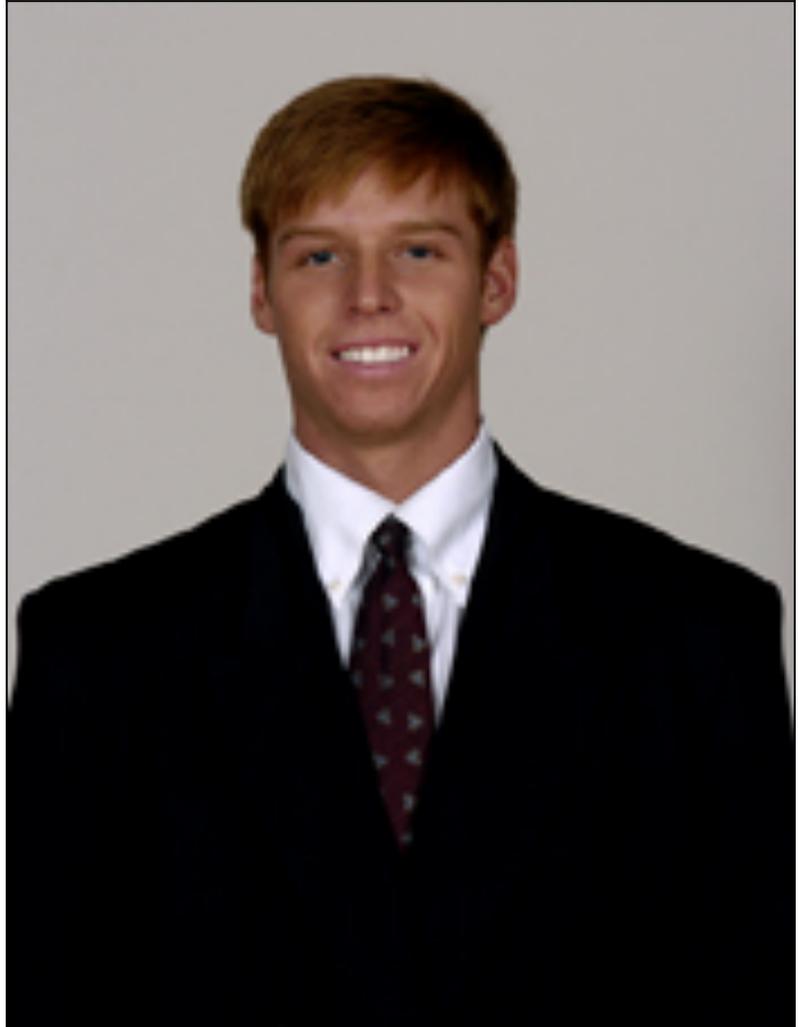
Beachum had a pair of hits in the first inning, singling to leadoff and then clearing the bases with a double in the eight-run frame. He added singled in the third, fifth and eighth innings, his first career five-hit game and the first five-hit game of the season for the Blue Raiders. Michael McKenry added three hits and three RBIs, including his 13th home run of the season, while Josh Horn added four RBIs. Middle Tennessee (25-18)

tallied 20 hits in the contest,

the second 20-hit game in the last three contests and the 10th straight game with double-digit hits.

Blue Raider starter Peter Mantzanis (2-0) worked a career-best 5.2 innings, allowing one run on five hits. The righthander walked four, hit one and struck out one. Tommy Sterritt gave up two runs on four hits in two innings, Allan Woodward got one out and Jimmy Kelly worked the final inning.

Memphis (24-24) starter Lance Scoggins (2-3), the first of four UM hurlers, did not get an out in the first, giving up seven runs, three earned, on three hits with two walks. The lefthander suffered the loss, hitting one and throwing two wild pitches. The Blue Raiders scored eight times in the first inning on four hits and the aid of three Memphis errors. Beachum led off with a single and Nathan Hines reached on a throwing error by Scoggins. Wayne Kendrick walked to load the bases before an infield single from McKenry. Shortstop Michael Murray's throw to second was late and went into rightfield, allowing Hines to score. Adam Warren's chopper plated Kendrick and after a walk to Todd Martin, a wild pitch plated McKenry. Marcus Taylor was hit, ending the day for Scoggins without getting an out. Horn's grounder was booted by third baseman Kyle Norrid, allowing Warren to score, before Beachum's bases-clearing double gave Middle Tennessee an 8-0 lead after an inning. Memphis



plated a run in the second on three hits, starting with a one-out double from Joey Lieberman. Norris followed with a single and Murray's two-out single to right plated Lieberman. McKenry got the run back with a leadoff solo shot to leftcenter in the bottom of the inning, his 13th of the season. In the fifth Beachum and Hines both singled with one out, putting runners on the corners. Kendrick singled to right, scoring Beachum, and McKenry followed with his third hit of the contest, an RBI single to left, for an 11-1 lead. Robbie Goss and Trey Wiedman had back-to-back doubles to leadoff the Memphis eighth. Wiedman later scored on a doubleplay ball from Josh Irvin. The Blue Raiders scored four times in the bottom of the inning, starting with a one-out single from Martin. Taylor followed with a walk and Horn hit his fifth homer of the season, a three-run shot. Beachum singled and Alex Watson doubled before an RBI single from Taylor Dennis finished the scoring. The two teams play again Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders host Louisiana-Lafayette this weekend starting Friday at 7 p.m. **GAME NOTES**

Jeff Beachum extended his hitting streak to six games with a single to leadoff the first. Beachum's double in the first, his second hit of the inning, moved him past Old Dominion's Todd Azar into second place on the all-time hits list in the Sun Belt Conference. Beachum has 305 hits and trails only Jacksonville's Ernie Carr (311 hits) on the all-time list ... Marcus Taylor extended his hitting streak to seven games with a double in the second ... Todd Martin extended his hitting streak to a career-high 11 games with a single in the fourth ... Nathan Hines extended his hitting streak to a career-best 14 games with a single in the fifth ... Peter Mantzanis tossed a career-best 5.2 innings for his second win of the season ... Josh Horn extended his hitting streak to six games with a single in the sixth.

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