

# Marrs Works into Ninth in 5-4 Triumph

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## **MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -**

Nick Marrs allowed one run on five hits in eight-plus innings while he was in the game in his first career start and Matt Campbell hit his second home run in as many days, as Middle Tennessee hung on for a 5-4 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette Sunday afternoon at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders (27-20, 10-10 Sun Belt) salvaged the final game of the series and with Florida International's 9-5 loss at Western Kentucky, moved back into fourth place with three games remaining in conference play. Marrs (1-1) was told of his Sunday start after Saturday's game and the

righthander worked into the ninth inning, just the second pitcher to work that long in a game this season (Matt Scott was the other). He walked two and struck out six before allowing a leadoff single and a walk in the ninth. Josh Anderson got two outs before Scott Hawkins homered, his fourth of the year and second in the series, cutting the Middle Tennessee lead to one. But Anderson induced a flyout from Matt Hicks to end the game for his first save. The Blue Raiders scored twice in the first, once in the fourth and twice on Campbell's homer in the sixth. Wayne Kendrick, Todd Martin and Campbell all had a pair of hits for Middle Tennessee. UL starter Jason Fernandez (7-2) allowed five runs on eight hits in 5.1 innings, walking four and striking out five. Danny Farquhar tossed the final 2.2 innings, giving up two hits and striking out one. The Blue Raiders scored twice in the first, starting with a leadoff double from Jeff Beachum. He went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Kendrick's flair down the rightfield line. Kendrick then stole second, moved to third when the throw bounced into centerfield and scored on Martin's groundout. The Cajuns (34-17, 16-5) cut the lead in half with a solo homer from Jonathan Lucroy in the fourth, his ninth of the year. Adam Warren's line drive was dropped by first baseman Jefferies Tatford and Warren stole second to leadoff the Middle Tennessee fourth. Warren scored after groundouts from Marcus Taylor and Alex Watson for a 3-1 advantage. The Raiders added to the lead in the sixth when Taylor drew a leadoff walk before Campbell lined a ball over the leftfield wall, his second homer in as many days, for a 5-1 Middle Tennessee edge. Marrs threw first-pitch strikes to 19 of the 31 batters he faced and tossed 108 pitches in the game. Other than Lucroy's home run, no UL player reached scoring position until Devery Van De Keere and Lucroy started the ninth inning. Middle Tennessee hits the road for the

final four games of the regular season, taking on Vanderbilt Tuesday in Nashville at 6 p.m. before heading to Troy for a three-game series beginning Thursday. **GAME NOTES**

Junior Nick Marrs drew the start, the first of his career and ninth pitcher to start a game this season ... Jeff Beachum's double to leadoff the first extended his hitting streak to 10 games ... Michael McKenry's single in the third extended his hitting streak to nine games ... Todd Martin's single in the fifth extended his hitting streak to a career-high 15 games ... Alex Watson's single in the eighth extended his hitting streak to a career-high eight games.

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