Blue Raiders fall 9-6 at Memphis

Ford homers in defeat

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. - It was a back-and-forth affair on Tuesday night as the Middle Tennessee baseball team took on Memphis at FedExPark, but the host Tigers ultimately grabbed the lead for good with a late rally to win 9-6. "Guidry gave us a good start, but we didn't make the plays we needed to make to win the game," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We weren't sharp defensively and we didn't come up with enough clutch hits. You can't do that when you're taking on a team like Memphis. The Blue Raiders (12-25) were led offensively by on the night by Ryan Ford, who knocked in a pair of runs, both coming off his first home run of the season in the sixth. The sophomore ended the day 1-for-3 with a run scored and a walk. Justin Guidry had a nice day at the plate as well, going 4-for-5 with an RBI, and Davis Pearce was 2-for-3 with two walks and two runs scored. Will Skinner was the only other Blue Raider with multiple hits and went 2-for-5 with a run scored. For the day, Middle Tennessee and Memphis were even in hits with 13, but the Blue Raiders committed five errors to Memphis' two. On the mound, Guidry was strong through five innings, allowing three runs with only one earned. The junior allowed six hits and struck out four. Joey McClung was pegged with the loss, giving up four earned in an inning of work, and Paul Mittura recorded the final six outs and allowed one earned run. Middle Tennessee grabbed the first lead of the ball game with a run in the top of the second. Pearce led off the frame with a single through the left side and would later score on a McNabb double off the left field wall. After Memphis tied things up in the bottom of the frame, Middle Tennessee retook the lead in the third. Thomas led off with a single, and Pearce brought him home with a two-out single to left. The Tigers (23-14) would respond a run in each the fourth and the fifth to take a temporary 3-2 edge,

but Ford's two-run blast to left gave the lead back to Middle Tennessee in the sixth. The Blue Raiders stretched the lead out to 6-3 in the seventh, but it was short-lived as Memphis rallied for four runs in the bottom half of the frame to go up 7-6. Memphis tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the eighth. Middle Tennessee will now prepare for the second and final game of the series at Memphis on Wednesday at 4 PM at FedExPark.

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