

Softball drops Saturday doubleheader

Team set to play in Sun Belt Championships

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BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -

Upon qualifying for the Sun Belt Conference Championships on Wednesday, Middle Tennessee softball dropped a Saturday doubleheader at WKU.

Middle Tennessee hit the ball exceptional in the first game, totaling 14 hits in eight innings. Nina Davenport, Brittney Banania, Corrie Abel and Kristi Marquez all recorded three hit games. It was the first time Marquez's career, she has amassed three hits in a single-contest.

Abel opened the scoring for Middle Tennessee in the first, singling to bring home Davenport. Kaycee Popham continued to terrorize the Toppers, when she doubled to right, scoring Banania and Kayla Toney. The score was 3-0 after one.



The Blue Raiders were in control early, as starting pitcher Katy Jutson made light work of the Hilltoppers. She gave up just two hits through the first three innings.

WKU attempted to rally in the fourth, loading the bases. However stiff MT defense would keep the Toppers off the board.

Abel scored her second run of the game in the fifth, when Popham sent a fly ball to center. The WKU fielder could not make the play and was changed and error. Middle Tennessee led 4-0 after five.

Western Kentucky turned the tide in the sixth, scoring three runs off three hits and an MT error. The

Hilltoppers sent the game to extra-innings in the seventh on a solo-home run. WKU completed the comeback in the bottom of the eighth on a walk-off sacrifice fly.

Janele Robinson was saddle with the loss after coming in for Jutson in the six. Robinson gave up one earned run off four hits. Jutson allowed three earned runs off five hits.

WKU continued their momentum into game two, scoring three quick runs in the first inning. Robinson started the game, but was quickly run. Freshman Shelby Stinnett saw some valuable action. The Chapell Hill, Tenn., native threw well in relief, allowing just one runs off three hits.

Kelsey Dortch brought the Blue Raiders within two in the second on a solo-home run to left field. This was her third homer and 17th RBI of the season.

WKU added one more in the sixth to move the final score to 4-1.

The Blue Raiders move to 18-31 on the year, including a 8-16 mark in the Sun Belt Conference. They will travel to Lafayette, La., to compete in the 2011 Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Results and coverage will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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