Middle Tennessee falls to Lipscomb in first half of doubleheader

Thomas homers in defeat

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Final Box Score (PDF)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Johnny Thomas came up big again for the Middle Tennessee baseball team, but it wouldn't prove to be enough as the Blue Raiders fell 3-2 late to Lipscomb in the first game of Tuesday's doubleheader at Ken Dugan Field in Nashville, Tenn. Thomas put MT on the board early with a solo home run to right in the first inning, but the Kenner, La., native added to his heroics late, doubling in the top of the seventh to tie things up and finishing the day 2-for-4 with a run scored and two batted in. Ryan Ford also had a strong day at the plate, going 2-for-4 with a walk, and Hank LaRue ended the game 1-for-4 with a run scored. Middle Tennessee (1-2) was out-hit on the day 8-6, and the Blue Raiders stranded eight runners on base compared to LU's 12. On the mound, Jordan Cooper made his first career start, pitching 4.1 innings and allowing a pair of runs on three hits and striking out four. Nick Montgomery came on in relief to toss 1.2 innings and giving up a pair of hits. Kooper Kessler was hooked with the loss, giving up one hit and one run over 1.1 frames of work. After Thomas' opening frame home run, Lipscomb tied it up in the third. Ricky Coleman led off with a walk, ultimately scoring on a Zach Lowery single. The Bisons (2-1) loaded the

bases later in the frame, but Cooper was able to get out of the jam. LU grabbed the lead in the fifth, and the Blue Raiders mounted their response in the seventh. LaRue led off with a single to right and later advanced to second on a Ford two-out walk. Thomas followed up with a single, putting the ball just beyond the outstretched arm of Lipscomb shortstop Aaron Sandoval. The Bisons secured the win just an inning later with a two-out hit of their own as Lee Wilson was able to cash in on an early Logan Hostettler double, pushing the deciding run across the plate.

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