Adkins tosses shutout against Ohio

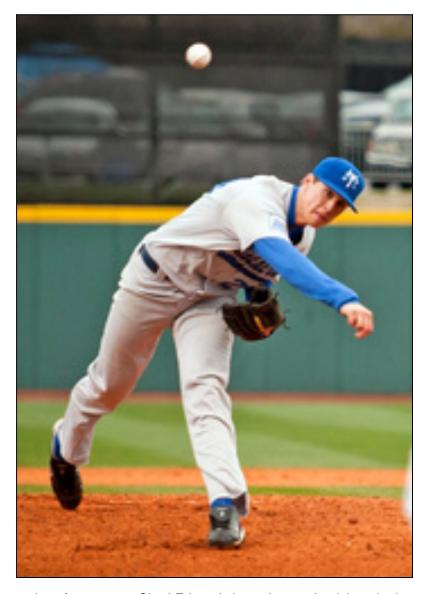
Blue Raiders win 4-0 over the Bobcats

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee baseball team received yet another strong pitching outing on Friday evening, this time from Hunter Adkins, who tossed his first career shutout, helping Middle Tennessee to a 4-0 victory over Ohio at Reese Smith Jr. Field. "I felt great out there," Adkins said. "I was just trying to command the plate and not walk anybody. It was a pitcher's day with the wind blowing in, and I just tried to get it down the middle and let my defense do the work." Adkins struck out four without walking a batter. The junior from Signal Mountain, Tenn., was also a big part of his own defense, compiling seven assists and a pair of putouts. The game marked the first complete game shutout since Matthew Drake accomplished the feat in five innings against Memphis last season. The last



Blue Raider pitcher to throw nine scoreless frames was Chad Edwards in a win over Louisiana in the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Offensively, Justin Guidry and Ethan Williams led the way, each going 2-for-4 with a run scored. Six other Blue Raiders tallied a hit on the day, and MT out-hit the Bobcats 10-8. Middle Tennessee (2-3) grabbed the opening lead in the third, marking the fourth consecutive game that the Blue Raiders have taken the first lead. Ryan Stephens led off the frame with a single and advanced to second on a Dain McNabb sacrifice bunt. Ohio pitcher Seth Streich did the rest of the work, bringing Stephens home on a wild pitch and a balk. The Blue Raiders established some breathing room in the ensuing inning, putting up three more scores in the fourth. Williams led off with an infield single, stole second and moved to third on a Trent Miller sacrifice bunt. Guidry followed up with a perfect squeeze play, reaching first and bringing home Miller for the second run of the game. "We have to do everything we can on a day like this," head coach Steve

Peterson said. "I'm proud of my team for executing. We got a squeeze down, created a balk, stole some bases, and we did every little thing that we could. I really have to compliment my team on doing the little things." Singles by Robert Lawrence and McNabb plated Guidry, and a Bobcat error brought home Lawrence. Ohio had their best opportunity go to waste in the seventh. After Jake Madsen led off the frame with a double, Adkins struck out the next batter. A single by Ian Mezlak put the junior into a jam, but Adkins was able to pick off Mezlak moments later and induced a flyout to shallow center to end the threat. Adkins faced the minimum over the next two innings to secure Middle Tennessee's first shutout victory since a 4-0 decision at Memphis last April. The Blue Raiders will play their second game of the series on Saturday. Johnathan Frebis is slated to start for MT and first pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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