Offense explodes in 13-4 rout of Louisiana Tech

Thomas and Miller power Blue Raiders past Bulldogs

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – An eight-run seventh inning helped the Middle Tennessee baseball team push its winning streak to five games with an impressive 13-4 drubbing of Louisiana Tech in the first half of a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon at Reese Smith Jr. Field. The Middle Tennessee offense, which has handed the Blue Raiders a lead in each game this season, recorded a season-high in runs, led by the duo of Johnny Thomas and Trent Miller, who combined to go 5-for-8 with seven runs batted in, three runs scored and a pair of homers. Ryan Ford had a three-hit day at the plate with a pair of scores, and Ethan Williams was the only other Blue Raider to record multiple hits, ending 2-for-4 with a run and three RBI. As a team, Middle Tennessee posted a season-high 15 hits to Louisiana Tech's eight. On the mound, Hunter Adkins picked up his second win of the season, pitching 5.1 frames and allowing three runs (two earned) on four hits while striking out eight. Keaton Baker allowed one run in 1.1 innings of work, and Joey McClung recorded the final seven outs of the game to pick up his second save of the season. After giving up a two-run blast in the opening frame, Middle Tennessee (6-3) reclaimed a run in the third. Ryan Stephens led off with a bunt single and stole second, scoring on a Miller single to right. A four-run fifth gave the Blue Raiders the lead. Drake led off with a walk, moved to second on a Stephens sacrifice bunt, later scoring on a

single to left and a fielding error. Miller would later score on a perfectly executed bunt by Ford. A Williams double to right gave MT a 5-2 lead. The Bulldogs (7-4) pulled back within one over the ensuing two innings, but the bats came alive for Middle Tennessee with an eight run assault in the seventh. Three one-out singles set the stage for a grand slam by Thomas, and Matthew Drake followed up with a homer of his own in the following at-bat. After Stephens reached on an error, Miller homered to left to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs. The frame marked the first time back-to-back hitters have homered since Will Skinner and Davis Pearce accomplished the feat against Jacksonville State. It also marked the first eight score inning for MT since March 2010.

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