Blue Raiders drop 5-4 decision to Ball State

Ninth inning rally falls short

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee baseball team put the tying run in scoring position on Friday evening, but the rally fell short as the Blue Raiders lost 5-4 to visiting Ball State at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Trent Miller and Ryan Stephens both had two-hit days at the plate, but the Blue Raiders were out-hit on the day 11-7. Adkins started off strong for MT, striking out four of the first six hitters he faced, but Ball State pushed the first run of the game across in the third inning. After loading the bases with two outs, T.J. Weir earned a walk, but Adkins retired the next batter to curb the damage. The junior ended the day with five innings pitched, four runs earned and seven strikeouts. Nick Montgomery pitched the final four frames of the game, allowing six hits and one run. The Blue Raiders (8-6) things up with a two-out rally in the fourth. Ethan Williams and Justin Guidry extended the inning with a pair of singles, and a Miller double brought it even at 1-1. The Cardinals (3-7) loaded the bases in the fifth with no outs, and Weir knocked a single to right to hand BSU the lead for good. After BSU tacked on a run in each of the ensuing two innings, the Blue Raiders pulled back within reaching distance in the seventh. Stephens stepped to the plate with runners on second and third with two outs, and laced a single to left center to bring the tying run to the plate, but the

Cardinals were able to induce a flyout to end the frame. In the ninth, BSU first baseman Cody Campbell dropped a foul ball and Miller made him pay for it by following up with a single up the middle. Johnny Thomas doubled to right to bring the winning run to the plate. Matthew Drake recorded a sacrifice fly to score Miller. However, a flyout and a lineout ended the comeback effort to hand game one of the three game set to the Cardinals. Johnathan Frebis will look to bring MT back level in the series on Saturday. The freshman from Murfreesboro is slated to get the start on the mound for the Blue Raiders, and first pitch at Reese Smith Jr. Field is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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