Blue Raiders drop conference opener to WKU

Thomas goes 3-for-4 in loss

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Hunter Adkins pitched well early on Friday evening, but WKU posted six runs in the top of the sixth on the way to a 9-2 victory over the Middle Tennessee baseball team at Reese Smith Jr. Field. "I stayed with Hunter too long, and I was hoping to see him get it back, but it didn't happen," head coach Steve Peterson said. "He pitched outstanding for five innings and owned them. Then it just fell apart, and they had a big inning." Adkins gave up just one hit and struck out seven through the first five frames, but the Hilltoppers were able to break through for a pair of runs and eventually a grand slam to chase the junior from the mound in the sixth. Nick Montgomery tossed a hitless 1.2 innings, and Cody Tollison and Keaton Baker combined to allow three runs on six hits over the final six outs. The Blue Raiders had a better day at the plate and actually out-hit WKU 10-9, led by two-hit days from both Hank LaRue and Justin Guidry, and a 3-for-4 outing for Johnny Thomas. MT struck for the first run in the second. Trent Miller, Thomas and LaRue led off the inning with consecutive singles, and a Dalton Henzman groundout pushed the run across. Following the six-run WKU rally, back-to-back singles by Thomas and Ryan Stephens brought the deficit within four, but the Hilltoppers posted three runs over the ensuing two frames to put it out of reach. MT will look for revenge on Saturday afternoon. Johnathan Frebis will make the start on the mound, and first pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

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