Frebis perfect through seven as Blue Raiders fall to Owls

LaRue finishes 3-for-4 with a run scored

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Johnathan Frebis and Kooper Kessler combined to deliver eight perfect innings for the Blue Raider baseball team, but Florida Atlantic's four-run eighth proved to be the difference in the Owls' 4-1 win over the Blue Raiders on Saturday afternoon at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Frebis was perfect through seven innings before giving up a home run in the eighth. "Frebis had a perfect game going," head coach Steve Peterson said. "You can't do any better than that. The inning before, he started showing signs of elevating the ball. Obviously, I wasn't going to take him out. He pitched a great ballgame, and it's a shame we couldn't get him a win out of it." The lefty allowed two runs, both earned, on one hit with four strikeouts and a walk in suffering the loss for MT (14-9, 3-2 Sun Belt). "Frebis was getting the ball in and out and hitting his spots today," catcher Michael Adkins said. "It was awesome. Just about every pitch today was on me. If he's throwing fastballs and hitting his spots, that's what we're going to go with. Whatever is working for him. We have a good bond, catching and pitching together." Florida Atlantic's Kevin Alexander (4-0) battled Frebis (2-2) through seven, earning the win after giving up one earned run on six hits. Third baseman Hank LaRue finished the game 3-for-4, scoring the Blue Raiders' lone run in the seventh. Matthew Drake provided the RBI with a pinch-hit single to give MT the 1-0 lead. Owl third baseman Kyle Newton delivered the first

blow for Florida Atlantic (15-9, 4-1 SBC) in the eighth, leading off the inning with a homer to left-center to make it a 1-1 game. Frebis issued a walk to the following batter, then exited the game in favor of Joey McClung. McClung retired the next two batters, but a wild pitch and base-hit plated another run for the Owls. Florida Atlantic would tack on two more runs in the frame on a double steal and bases-loaded walk for the 4-1 advantage. It was the only inning the Owls would have any base-runners. Kessler retired the side in the top of the ninth, but MT was unable to capitalize on LaRue's leadoff single in the ninth as a double play stifled the Blue Raider rally. The two teams square off in the rubber match at noon on Sunday. Jonathan Sisco looks to remain perfect for MT, bringing a 4-0 record against Florida Atlantic's Austin Gomber (1-1).

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