Baseball falls 13-5 to Memphis

Blue Raiders to square off against South Alabama on Friday

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee baseball team closed out its nine-game homestand on Wednesday with a 13-5 loss to in-state foe Memphis at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Trent Miller had a nice day at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two runs batted in, but it was all for naught as the Tigers posted eight scores over the opening two frames on the way to a wire-to-wire decision. Johnny Thomas and Jordan Rorex were the only other major contributors to the Blue Raider offense. Thomas ended 1-for-4 with a two-run homer, and Rorex was 1-for-2 with a pair of walks and a run scored. Eight pitchers saw action on the mound, led by the duo of Paul Mittura and Joey McClung, who combined to pitch 4.2 innings and give up two hits and strike out four. Jordan Cooper was pegged with the loss after giving up four unearned runs in the first inning. Memphis (11-14) grabbed the lead with a Carter White bases-loaded walk, and added one more on a Tucker Tubbs sacrifice fly. Ford Wilson cleared the bases with a triple down the right field line to chase Cooper from the mound. Keaton Baker came on in relief to strike out Colton Simbeck on three pitches to end the threat. The Blue Raiders (15-11) tried to respond in the bottom of the frame. Justin Guidry reached on a walk and Hank LaRue followed up with a single through the left side to move him into scoring position. Miller doubled to center to push a run across, but Tiger pitcher Erik Schenrock induced a double play moments later to quell the rally. Three of the first four Tigers to step to the plate in the second earned a walk, and Eli Hynes homered to right to give Memphis the insurmountable 8-1 lead. After the Tigers tacked on five more runs in the top of the fifth, MT put up three in the bottom of the frame. Lawrence was hit by a pitch to reach first and moved over to second on a passed ball. A Miller single scored the run, and Thomas unloaded on the first pitch he saw with a two-run blast to right. After Rorex reached on a walk in the sixth, a pair of balks moved him to third. Austin Bryant grounded out, but picked up his

first career RBI for the final MT score of the game. MT finished with a 9-6 mark in home games this month, marking the 24th season that the Blue Raiders have not posted a losing record at Reese Smith Jr. Field in March over Steve Peterson's 25 years. The Blue Raiders are set to return to Sun Belt action this weekend when they hit the road to take on South Alabama. The trip is the first for the Blue Raiders to Mobile since the 2009 season. First pitch on Friday is slated for 6:30 p.m.

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