Blue Raiders fall in series opener to South Alabama

Game time on Saturday set for 6:30 p.m.

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MOBILE, Ala. - A big sixth inning was all it took for South Alabama on Friday night as the Jaguars held on for a 7-5 victory over the Middle Tennessee baseball team at Stanky Field in Mobile, Ala. Hunter Adkins got the start on the mound, and after looking strong over the first five frames, the Jaguars (11-15, 6-1 Sun Belt) broke through in the sixth. The junior right-hander ended the with 5.2 innings pitched, allowing four runs on six hits and striking out three. Nathan Foriest came on in relief, but gave up three runs without recording an out, and Cody Tollison and Kooper Kessler combined to record the final seven outs, but the damage had already been done. At the plate, eight Blue Raiders recorded a hit and four had multi-hit days, led by Trent Miller's 3-for-5 outing. As a team, MT actually out-hit the Jaguars 13-11. After being held hitless over the opening three innings, Ryan Ford finally broke through for the Blue Raiders (15-12, 3-4 SBC) with an infield single in the fourth. A Justin Guidry walk moved him into scoring position, Miller singled to center to push the run across. In the fifth, back-to-back singles by Ryan Stephens and Dain McNabb put runners on with two outs for Guidry, and the senior came up big with a single to center to double the MT advantage. USA pulled one back in the bottom of the fifth with a two-out Brent Mitchell solo shot to left. The timely hitting for the Jaguars continued an inning later. After two of the first three USA hitters failed to reach base, three consecutive singles and another Mitchell home run put USA up 6-2. Jordan Patterson walked, and Whitt Dorsey followed up

with another single to put the deficit at five runs. McNabb laced a one-out single to center in the seventh, and crossed the plate on a Hank LaRue single later in the inning to bring the Blue Raiders within four. MT added two more in the eighth. Johnny Thomas led off with a double, and scored on a Jordan Rorex one-out single. After stealing second, a fielding error by Hunt Griffith allowed Rorex to cross home and bring the score to 7-5. The Blue Raiders tried to rally in the top of the ninth after Miller doubled to left center with one out, but back-to-back groundouts by Thomas and Matthew Drake ended the threat and the game. MT and USA will square off again on Saturday evening in Mobile. Frebis is slated to get the start on the mound for the Blue Raiders, and first pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

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