Softball falls in series finale at South Alabama

Blue Raiders suffer 8-0 defeat in five innings

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MOBILE, Ala. -- A day after pounding out a combined 18 hits in Saturday's doubleheader, the Middle Tennessee softball team was limited to just one hit on Sunday, falling 8-0 in five innings in the finale of the squad's three-game series with South Alabama.

The Blue Raiders put a couple of runners on in the top of the first as Kaycee Popham was hit by a pitch and Kelsey Woodruff singled to right. Jaguar starter Hannah Campbell got Chelsea Good to strike out swinging, however, to end the inning with the game still scoreless.

South Alabama then struck with three runs in the bottom of the first. A hit-by-pitch and walk by Blue Raider starter Jordyn Fisherback put a pair of runners for Christin Crocker who put the Jaguars up 2-0 with a two-run triple. Julie Moss followed with an RBI single to give South Alabama a 3-0 lead after one inning.

The Jaguars extended their lead with four more runs in the second inning. Brittany Fowler's run-scoring double and Meghan Collins' two-run single highlighted the frame as South Alabama built a 7-0 advantage.

Middle Tennessee's offense was never able to get on track as the Blue Raiders were unable to put a runner on base following the first inning.

After pinch hitter Katy Neal's lead-off home run in the bottom of the fourth put South Alabama up 8-

0, Middle Tennessee needed a run in the top of the fifth to keep the game going. The Blue Raiders were unable to rally as they went up-and-down in order, falling 8-0.

“We simply did not have it today,” said Middle Tennessee head coach Sue Nevar. “You cannot win games when you only get one hit. We now just have to put today behind us and focus on having a good week of practice before facing Samford on Thursday.” With the defeat, the Blue Raiders dropped to 12-18 overall, 2-7 in Sun Belt play. South Alabama meanwhile improved to 23-9, 11-2. Jutson gave up four earned runs on just two hits in her one inning of work and received the loss. The win went to Campbell who pitched all five innings for the Jaguars, allowing just the one hit while striking out seven. Woodruff’s single was Middle Tennessee’s only offense on Sunday while Collins and Crocker led South Alabama with a hit and two RBIs apiece. The Blue Raiders will look to get back on track when they head to Birmingham, Ala., to face Samford on Thursday in a doubleheader beginning at 4 p.m. CT. Fans are encouraged to follow the Blue Raiders via Facebook and Twitter during their road trip to Mobile. Behind-the-scenes pictures and videos will be uploaded to the sites throughout the weekend.

Follow the Blue Raider softball team on Twitter @MT_Softball and on Facebook at the MTSU Softball page. Also, stay up-to-date on the team with the latest softball news and information at the brand-new “Softball Notebook” page which can be found here.

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