Baseball set to welcome Trojans this weekend

Saturday's game to be aired on CSS

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - After one of the best offensive showings in school history last weekend at South Alabama, the Middle Tennessee baseball team will look to keep it rolling when they host UALR at Reese Smith Jr. Field. After dropping a tight 7-5 ball game to the Jaguars on Friday, the Blue Raiders rebounded with a 12-3 win on Saturday and an impressive 17-1 mercy rule-shortened victory on Sunday. As a team, MT collected 55 hits over the three games, the most in a single series since joining the Sun Belt Conference in 2001. The Blue Raiders currently sit in fourth place in the SBC at 5-4, three games back of 8-1 Florida Atlantic. MT has won two conference series this season, taking home two out of three from both WKU and USA and dropping two of three to FAU. If MT is to repeat the offensive fireworks of a week ago, something accomplished without the presence of slugger Ethan Williams, the responsibilities will likely fall on the duo of Trent Miller and Justin Guidry. Miller enters this weekend's series leading the team with a .375 average, seven home runs and 28 runs batted in. Guidry is second with a .348 average, and holds a team-best mark in runs scored with 27. Johnny Thomas has also been a vital part of the MT line-up, leading the Blue and White with 11 doubles to go along with a .297 average and six homers. However, the strength of MT has been on the mound this season, a fact that is especially true when the Blue Raiders look to their weekend rotation. The trio of Hunter Adkins, Johnathan Frebis and Jonathan Sisco carry an 11-6 record with a combined 2.60 earned run average over 128.1 innings of work. Each pitcher has registered a complete game this season, helping MT win all but one weekend series. UALR is coming into Friday

with a 16-13 record, but sit in ninth place in the conference at 3-6. The Trojans took two out of three from the Blue Raiders in Little Rock last season, marking the first time MT had ever dropped a series to the school. This weekend is the first time the two sides have met in Murfreesboro since 2010, when the Blue Raiders swept past the Trojans. Since taking over the program in 1988, head coach Steve Peterson is 25-7 against UALR and 13-2 in games played at home. Adkins will get the start on Friday evening, and first pitch at Reese Smith Jr. Field is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday's game featuring Frebis has been selected as the Sun Belt Network Game of the Week. Lynn Rollins and Ronnie Rantz will have the call, and the game will be broadcast regionally on CSS and CST and nationally on ESPN3.com. First pitch is slated for noon.

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