Adkins shuts down UALR in 4-0 victory

Saturday's game to be broadcast on CSS

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Hunter Adkins tossed a brilliant 7.1 innings on Friday evening, holding the prolific UALR offense to just four hits and helping the Middle Tennessee baseball team to a 4-0 victory at Reese Smith Jr. Field. UALR (16-14, 3-7 Sun Belt) entered Friday evening's game with statistically the Sun Belt's strongest line-up, leading the league in virtually every offensive statistic, but it didn't mean much as only six Trojans reached base and none made it past second. Adkins ended his night with seven strikeouts, tying a career high, to just one walk. The Signal Mountain, Tenn., native improved to 4-3 this season. "My goal today was to get through the sixth because that's been my bad inning all year," Adkins said. "My defense did it for me the whole game, and that was huge. I was trying to keep down on the walks as well, and getting the strikeouts was big too." Joey McClung picked up the final five outs of the game for his team-leading third save this year. Offensively, seven Blue Raiders recorded a hit, and Jordan Rorex made some noise on the basepaths to end with a pair of runs scored and a stolen base. "I just try to spark the team and get things going," Rorex said. "It's helped me a lot to get to play everyday because it helps you get into a rhythm, and I'm just thankful for the opportunity." The opening half of the game featured a pitching duel between Adkins and Chance Cleveland, who threw a complete game for the Trojans, but the Blue Raiders finally broke through for the opening tally in the fifth. Rorex led off with a single to right and stole second to move into scoring position. Robert Lawrence singled through the left side to push the run across. Johnny Thomas was hit by a pitch to open up the sixth, and after stealing second, the junior scored on a Hank LaRue single through the right side. Later in the inning, Rorex reached on a fielder's choice and reached home after a Ryan Stephens single was mishandled by UALR rightfielder Ben Crumpton. Trent Miller tacked on another insurance run in the eighth when the sophomore deposited the first pitch he saw over the wall in left field, his team-best eighth home run of the season. MT improved to 18-12 this season, tying last year's win total, and 6-4 in conference play. The Blue Raiders and Trojans will square off again on Saturday at noon at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Johnathan Frebis is slated get the start on the mound, and the game has been selected as the Sun Belt Network Game of the Week and will be broadcast regionally on CSS and CST and nationally on ESPN3.com.

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