Blue Raiders fall to Troy in series finale

Williams, Miller each drive in a run

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Final Box Score (PDF)

TROY, Ala. - The Middle Tennessee baseball team suffered a 10-3 loss to the Troy Trojans in the series clincher on Sunday at Riddle-Pace Field. Trent Miller and Ethan Williams each drove in a run for the Blue Raiders on the afternoon. Troy (16-19, 5-10 Sun Belt) banged out 13 hits compared to MT's four, scattering them across five Blue Raider pitchers used in the contest. Jonathan Sisco (5-2) took the loss after tossing 2.2 innings and allowing five runs, all earned on four hits. For Troy, Nate Hill (4-2) earned the win after throwing four innings of one-hit, one-run ball in relief. "It was very disappointing how we pitched," head coach Steve Peterson said. "Troy really jumped on us good and really owned us on the latter part of Friday and then Saturday and Sunday. We didn't pitch well out of the pen at all the whole weekend. We knew Nate Hill would be tough and he's a crafty guy. He makes you have to work and that's not what we're doing right now. We're not working at the plate." Troy's Jakob Nixon opened the contest with a double and later scored on a double play to make it 1-0. Nixon struck again in the second inning, this time clearing the bases with a two-out double to give the Trojans a 4-0 lead. Jake Harrell padded Troy's lead with an RBI-single in the third, driving in Boone Shear after a leadoff walk for the 5-0 advantage. The Blue Raiders (21-15, 9-6 SBC) rallied for a pair of runs in the fourth. Johnny Thomas reached on a one-out walk, then Miller followed with a base-knock before Williams' plated MT's first run with a blooper to right. Miller was thrown out charging for third to put a runner

at first with two outs. Hank LaRue stepped in and singled to left field, but the ball bounced and rolled away from Trojan leftfielder Jo-El Bennett, enabling Williams to score. MT inched closer in the sixth after Guidry was hit to open the frame and Thomas laced a double down the leftfield line to put runners at second and third with no outs. Miller grounded to short and Guidry ran home on the play to make it 5-3. LaRue nearly made it a one-run game with a sharp liner to short, but Tyler Hannah's leaping grab saved a run to preserve the Trojans' two-run lead. Troy built up a six-run lead after tacking on four more runs in the sixth, then added one more in the seventh to account for the final score. The Blue Raiders turn their attention to in-state foe Vanderbilt on Tuesday. The two teams will meet in Nashville at 6:30 p.m. CT.

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