Guidry homers twice in loss to Arkansas State

Blue Raiders set to play again on Saturday at 4 p.m.

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Final Box Score (PDF)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - After spotting visiting Arkansas State a 7-0 lead early on Friday night, Keaton Baker and Cody Tollison combined to retire 15 in a row to close out the game, but it wasn't enough as the Middle Tennessee baseball team fell to the Red Wolves 8-5 at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Both Baker and Tollison tossed three innings, with Baker allowing a hit and a run while striking out five, and Tollison recorded a perfect seventh, eighth and ninth frame. "We just didn't get any runs to let Adkins off the hook," head coach Steve Peterson said. "Baker started pounding the strike zone to keep us in the ball game and Tollison was very good. We just needed more timely hitting tonight." Hunter Adkins saw the first hitter of the game reach third with one out, but was able to get out of the jam with a strikeout and flyout. However, that all changed over the next two innings as the junior gave up five hits and seven runs (one unearned). For the second straight game, the Blue Raiders (24-20, 10-9 SBC) out-hit their opponent in a loss as six players combined to register eight hits to ASU's six. Justin Guidry led the way on offense, going 2-for-5 with a pair of solo home runs, coming in back-to-back at-bats in the third and

fifth innings. "I think my hands were coming too far out in our game vs. Vanderbilt, and I spent yesterday working on that," Guidry said. "I kept them inside tonight and got my bat speed a bit quicker, which helped me handle those pitches." Ethan Williams was the only other Blue Raider to record multiple hits, ending 2-for-4 with a run scored, and Trent Miller was 1-for-2 with a run and a pair of walks. After putting down the first two hitters of the second inning on six pitches, the ASU offense opened up four four runs on Adkins thanks to a pair of homers from Logan Uxa and Zach Maggio. The Red Wolves (22-18, 11-6 SBC) kept rolling in the following inning, sending eight to the plate and scoring three times. MT claimed two back in the bottom of the third after Robert Lawrence led off with a triple to left center, the first three-base hit surrendered by ASU ace Jacob Lee this season. A Ryan Ford sacrifice fly brought home the score, and Guidry followed up with his first homer of the night to cut the deficit to five. Baker came on for Adkins in the fourth, and the Red Wolves struck once more after Zach George led off with a walk and moved into scoring position on a pair of wild pitches. Claude Johnson singled to score the run, but it was the only time ASU would get to the right-hander as the Cordova, Tenn., native struck out four over the ensuing 2.2 innings. "The coaches have been preaching to me all year to just go out there with a positive attitude, and that's what I did tonight," Baker said. "It's definitely helped my confidence because this has been a humbling year for me. After this performance, I definitely feel that tonight will help me with the rest of the season." Miller and Williams led off the bottom of the fourth with a single and a double, and a Hank LaRue sacrifice fly brought the first run home. Ryan Stephens singled to right to move Williams to third, and another sac fly, this time by Robert Lawrence, brought the Blue Raiders within four. After homering to right earlier in the game, Guidry sent the next one just over the outstretched arm of Uxa in left field in the fifth. Guidry's two four-baggers were just the third and fourth given up by Lee this season and the first since a loss at Lousiana on March 23. The Blue Raiders will aim to get back on track on Saturday afternoon at Reese Smith Jr. Field. The world famous Budweiser Clydesdales will be on hand, beginning at 2 p.m., and first pitch is slated for 4 p.m.

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