Blue Raiders head to FIU for critical Sun Belt series

MT and FIU currently tied for fourth in league

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First Pitch (all times Central)
Friday: 6 p.m.
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee baseball will travel to FIU this weekend for a critical three-game Sun Belt series, as both teams are tied for fourth place in the league with just three weeks remaining in the regular season. The Blue Raiders and Panthers open the stretch on Friday at FIU Baseball Stadium in Miami at 7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT. MT (25-21, 11-10 SBC) dropped last weekend's series against Arkansas State, but pulled out a 5-3 11-inning victory on Sunday thanks to a pair of home runs from first baseman Ethan Williams. Williams accounted for four RBI in the contest and belted a walk-off two-run homer to propel the Blue Raiders to victory. He has gone deep eight times this season, second only to Trent Miller's 11. Miller is hitting .365 for MT, just behind Justin Guidry with a team-leading .373 average. Guidry also leads the league in hits (69) after totaling eight last weekend, including a pair of home runs in Friday's contest against the Red Wolves. The Blue Raiders' rotation will remain the same for the weekend, with Hunter Adkins earning the start on Friday. Adkins will look to rebound after struggling against Arkansas State last weekend, allowing seven runs (six earned) on five hits in three innings. Johnathan Frebis will take the mound Saturday, and Jonathan Sisco rounds out the rotation Sunday. Frebis continues to have the hot hand among the trio, posting a 2.66 ERA with a team-best

54 strikeouts. He also tops the conference in opponent batting average (.203). FIU (25-19, 11-10 SBC) played a pair of midweek contests, dropping a 6-3 decision to Bethune Cookman before bouncing back with a 7-4 win over Florida Gulf Coast. Prior to that, the Panthers fell twice to South Alabama last weekend, claiming a 6-4 win in the Saturday contest. Mike Martinez' .403 average leads FIU, while Eddy Pidermann and Mike Ellis will take the hill on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Sunday's starter remains TBA. Pidermann has posted a 7-1 record in three starts to go along with a 3.12 ERA. Ellis has matched his 3.12 ERA and holds a 2-2 record in 10 starts. All Blue Raider games will air on WMOT 89.5, in addition to GoBlueRaiders.com, with Dick Palmer on the call. Live stats and video are available via FIUSports.com

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