Blue Raiders fall to Arkansas State in SBC tournament opener

MT will take on FIU Friday at 11 a.m.

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Final Box Score (PDF)

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - The No. 7 seed Middle Tennessee baseball team suffered a 12-1 loss to the second-seeded Arkansas State Red Wolves in the Blue Raiders' opening game of the Sun Belt Championship on Wednesday afternoon at the Bowling Green Ballpark. MT will have an off-day Thursday before resuming tournament play against No. 3 seed FIU on Friday at 11 a.m. The Red Wolves (33-21) capitalized on a leadoff walk to score a pair in the third and never looked back. Claude Johnson's double plated the first run, forcing MT starter Jonathan Sisco (5-4) from the contest, before Ryan Emery's RBI-single added the second. Sisco tossed 2.1 innings and gave up two runs on one hit but walked five to take the loss. His counterpart, 2012 Sun Belt Pitcher of the Year Jacob Lee, earned the victory after going the distance in the run-rule shortened seven-inning contest. Lee (9-1) allowed one run on five hits and fanned four with two walks. "Arkansas State is a mentally tough team that came ready to play today," head coach Steve Peterson said. "They were better than us in all facets of the game, and we had to go against the best pitcher in the league. (Jacob Lee) is a tough competitor." ASU tacked on another run in the fourth, then busted the game open with a six-run fifth. The Red Wolves took advantage of five hits and three walks in the frame to take a 9-0 lead. The Blue Raiders (29-28) mustered a run in the sixth after a leadoff walk to Ryan Ford. Justin Guidry followed with a base-

knock and Ford advanced to third on the hit-and-run. Hank LaRue hit into a double play, but Ford ran home on the grounder to make it a 9-1 game. After a hit and walk in the seventh Red Wolves cleanup hitter Logan Uxa ended the contest with a three-run shot to right field. Keaton Baker, Cody Tollison and Aaron Hyder saw action out of the Blue Raider bullpen, combining for 10 runs on nine hits in the final 4.1 innings.

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