Softball drops finale at Georgia Softball Classic

Dukes hits three-run bomb in 11-6 loss

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BOX SCORE (PDF)

ATHENS, Ga. - Middle Tennessee squandered a late-inning lead and lost to Campbell, 11-6 of the Georgia Softball Classic.

MT drops to 0-5 on the season while Campbell improves to 6-2.

Laura Dukes again provided an offensive spark for the Blue Raiders, finishing 1-for-3 with a three-run home run in the third inning.

Kristi Marquez was 1-for-4 with a run in the game, and had five assists in the field. LaRi Mitchell had MT's other hit on the day.Jordyn Fisherback started the game, but earned a no-decision despite striking out seven in 6.0 innings. Caitlin McClure (0-1), took the loss after allowing six runs (five earned) on three hits and two walks.

After falling behind 0-1, the Blue Raiders jumped to the lead with a five-run third inning. After Samantha Nieves walked to start the inning, Chelsea Good reached on a fielder's choice, and moved to second on Nina Davenport's ground out. Juli Layne pinch-ran for Good and Kayla Toney walked, setting up runners on first and second with two outs.

In the next at-bat, Marquez doubled down the left-field line, scoring Good and moving Toney to third. Toney then scored on a wild pitch with Nina Dever in the box. Dever would eventually draw a walk before Dukes blasted her third home run of the season and pushed the lead to four.

Campbell would answer with two runs of their own in the third, but in the fifth, Dever scored on a throwing error by the Campbell's Courtney Klingler, putting the score at 6-3.

The wheels fell off, however, in the bottom of the sixth, when Campbell scored eight runs on seven hits, taking the lead for good.

The Blue Raiders travel to Oxford, Miss., next weekend for the Red and Blue Classic. The tournament, scheduled for Feb. 22-24, features Drake, Mississippi Valley State, Ole Miss, McNeese St. and UT-Martin.

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