MT completes Saturday sweep with win over Indiana State

Ellison drives in four runs

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Box Score (PDF)

AUBURN, Ala. - Jake Ellison's four-RBI day, including a three-run homer, powered the Middle Tennessee baseball team to an 8-1 win over Indiana State on Saturday evening at the Auburn Baseball Tournament at Plainsman Park.

Ellison was one of four Blue Raiders (4-2) with a multi-hit game as he went 2-for-4 at the plate. Ryan Ford, Johnny Thomas and Trent Miller each had two hits and an RBI in the contest. Thomas, who had driven in the game-winning run in the previous three victories, knocked in the game-tying run when MT was trailing 1-0 in the sixth.

Johnathan Frebis (1-0) set the foundation with six solid innings on the mound, giving up just one unearned run on five hits with five strikeouts. Daniel Palo picked up his first save of the season after entering the contest with a 4-1 lead to begin the seventh, shutting out the Sycamores (3-3) and fanning five over the final three frames.

It was a pitching duel through five, as the two teams remained scoreless until the Sycamores pushed a run across in the sixth on a passed ball. MT had a chance to get on the board in third with the bases load and no outs, but was unable to capitalize as a Sycamore double play stifled the threat.

Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth, the Blue Raider bats got hot. Ford smacked a two-out double off the leftfield wall, and Thomas drove him home with a single down the leftfield line to knot things at one. Miller made it three consecutive hits with single and another out later, Ellison smashed a 3-2 pitch over the leftfield wall for the 4-1 advantage.

The onslaught continued in the seventh as MT built its lead to six with three more runs thanks in part to three wild pitches. Trevor Haggard reached on a wild pitch to leadoff the inning and later scored

on Miller's base-knock to center. Thomas reached on a walk and eventually scored on a wild pitch, and Miller made his way around the bases on a pair of wild pitches and Ellison's RBI-single.

MT tacked on one more run in the eighth as Austin Bryant got his first hit of the season then scored on another double from Ford for the 8-1 lead.

Daniel Peterson (0-1) took the loss for Indiana State, going 5.1 innings and allowing three runs, all earned, on six hits. The Sycamores used six pitchers in the contest.

The Blue Raiders look to complete the tournament sweep on Sunday against College of Charleston. First pitch is slated for 10 a.m.

HEAD COACH JIM MCGUIRE
On the pitchers...
"To use only two pitchers in this game and only four on the whole day, I feel good going into tomorrow. Both those guys did a great job."

On Jake Ellison's home run...
"That's what we needed. Something to break it up. When Jake hit that ball out, it loosened everybody up. That's how it works. It becomes contagious. It was huge for Jake and huge for the team. He's capable of doing that, and that's what we expect him to do."

On winning both games today...
"These two wins today will hopefully give us a little push. We don't want to let tomorrow slip away, and we need to get this third win to prove to ourselves that we can get it done."

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