Blue Raiders take three-game winning streak to Tennessee Tech Tuesday

MT has won seven straight over Golden Eagles

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee Baseball team heads to Cookeville, Tenn., on Tuesday at 3 p.m. to take on Tennessee Tech in a mid-week matchup. The Blue Raiders look to make it four straight wins after a weekend sweep at the Auburn Baseball Tournament, where they defeated Auburn, Indiana State and College of Charleston.

MT (5-2) opened the tournament against SEC foe Auburn and gave the Tigers their first loss of the season with a 2-1 win. Senior Johnny Thomas cracked a two-run home run and pitcher Hunter Adkins threw another gem in his second start of the season to give the Blue Raiders their first victory over Auburn since Feb. 20, 1999.

The Blue Raiders currently lead the overall series with TTU, 80-30-1. MT has won the last seven matchups and 13 of the last 16.

Last year in Cookeville, the two teams battled into extra innings for the first time in the series before Middle Tennessee took the victory, 10-7, in the 10th inning.

Sophomore Keaton Baker (0-0) will make his first start on the mound for the Blue Raiders this season and just his second career start. Baker's lone appearance this year came against Austin Peay when he pitched one inning, faced two batters and struck out one.

Senior Ryan Ford leads the Blue Raiders at the plate, batting .393 (11-for-28) with four RBI and four doubles. Additionally, he has crossed the plate four times on the season.

TTU (4-3) got off to a hot start for the 2013 campaign, defeating Illinois in a three-game series, 2-1, on opening weekend.

The Golden Eagles defeated Niagara on Sunday afternoon, 10-9, with a bases loaded walk in the bottom of the 11th inning to take the series, 2-1, against the Purple Eagles.

Junior designated hitter Brandon Thomasson is the driving force behind the Golden Eagles' offensive attack and led TTU to their weekend victories. In the wins over Niagara, Thomasson went 4-for-8 at the plate scoring three runs with eight RBI and belting three home runs in just two games.

The starting pitcher for the Golden Eagles is TBA.

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