Blue Raiders split with Troy, grab first win of season

Nieves delivers three RBI in win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee clinched its first win of the 2013 season in its home opener, splitting a doubleheader with Troy on Wednesday.

MT (1-14, 1-1 SBC) picked up a 7-5 comeback win in Game 1 and fell to Troy (10-10, 1-1 SBC), 5-0 in Game 2.

In Game 2, Jordyn Fisherback started in the circle, and moved to 1-6 on the year after throwing 5.0 innings and allowing five runs (two earned) on six hits. Fisherback struck out four in the win. Caitlin McClure picked up her first save of the season, throwing the final 2.0 innings and giving up just one hit.

Offensively, Samantha Nieves was 2-for-3 with three RBI to lead the team. Katie Brown hit her first collegiate home run in a 2-for-3 performance from the designated player spot, and Nina Dever was 1-for-3 with a triple.

Troy jumped out to a 2-0 lead over the first 2.5 innings, but the Blue Raiders put together a three-run third inning to re-take the lead.

Brown blasted a one-out home run over the left field fence, and after Kristi Marquez reached on an error, she moved to third when Toney grounded out to second base.

With two outs, Laura Dukes drew a walk and Nieves hit a double into center field, tying the game at 2-2. During Dever's at-bat, Dukes came home on a passed ball and gave MT its first lead of the day.

Troy would answer back in its half of the fifth inning, as they took advantage of two defensive errors to score three runs on two hits.

The Blue Raiders, however, stormed back once again in their half of the fifth, scoring four runs and

taking the lead for good.

Brown led off the inning by reaching first on an error, and moved to second when Marquez was hit by a pitch. Toney laid down a sacrifice bunt to move both runners into scoring position, and Nieves then blasted her second double of the game to score Brown and Marquez.

Dever then hit a triple to centerfield, allowing Nieves to cross the plate. The final run scored when Ashley Stassin pinch hit for LaRi Mitchell, and singled to left, scoring Dever.

McClure (0-4) started Game 2, and despite giving up just one run on five hits in three innings, took the loss. Shelby Stinnett pitched 2.1 innings, and though she worked out of several close situations, gave up four runs on a grand slam by Troy's Caitlin Ortiz. Fisherback threw the final 1.2 innings and allowed just one hit.

MT managed just five hits as a team in the game, with Dever and Mitchell accounted for four (each went 2-for-3). Marquez had the other hit, and was caught stealing twice in the contest.

The Blue Raiders close out tournament play this weekend at the Chanticleer Challenge in Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 8-10.

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