Blue Raiders drop home game against Auburn

Nieves smacks home run, double in loss

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - In the first match-up in a three-game home stand, Middle Tennessee lost, 6-2, to Auburn on Wednesday.

MT drops to 1-20 on the season while Auburn now sits at 20-7.

Jordan Fisherback (1-10) took the loss, but threw well, striking out six while allowing just three runs (two earned) in a complete game. Shelby Stinnett entered the game in the sixth, but didn't record an out before Fisherback re-entered. Stinnett walked three and allowed three runs (one earned) in that span.

Samantha Nieves had an impressive 2-for-3 day at the plate, blasting a two-run home run and notching her seventh double of the season.

MT and Auburn were scoreless through three innings, when the Tigers tallied two runs on two hits to take the lead. They would again score in the fifth and the sixth, putting them up by six.

The Blue Raiders would answer back in the sixth, when Laura Dukes doubled down the right field line, and after Taylor Lee pinch ran for her, Nieves knocked her first round-tripper of the season.

MT will host Eastern Kentucky in a doubleheader tomorrow, Thursday, at the Blue Raider Softball Field. First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m.

HEAD COACH JEFF BREEDEN

On today's game...
"I thought for the most part our hitters did a pretty good job. We had good at-bats and we had six hits. We had more extra base hits than they did, and Sam (Nieves) had a bomb, so I was pretty pleased with how they hit today. I was not pleased with our defense. The story line for this thing is that we made three errors and walked too many batters in one inning. I thought Jordyn (Fisherback)

pitched well enough to get the win, and we didn't support her defensively. We blew some chances early to score runs; had some poor base running decisions, and we can't do that against good teams."

SOPHOMORE SHORTSTOP SAMANTHA NIEVES

On hitting well this season...
"I'm just trying to be aggressive early in the count. Last year I wasn't so successful in waiting for my pitch, so this year I'm just looking to be more aggressive."

On improved fielding lately...
"I'm just focusing on staying down on the ball. I've been taking extra ground balls on practice and just focusing."

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