UNO Drops MT 4-1

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Middle Tennessee is finding life in the Sun Belt Conference to be a bit tough right now. A 4-1 loss on Saturday means that the Blue Raiders dropped the second game of a three-game series against New Orleans 4-1, marking the first time this season that Middle Tennessee has lost consecutive games. The loss puts Middle Tennessee's record at 17-4 overall and 2-3 in the Sun Belt while New Orleans improves to 13-10 and a perfect 5-0 in the league. The Blue Raiders couldn't get anything going against UNO starter Mark Stander who didn't allow a hit until Kyle Thomas singled in the fifth inning. "We had guys continuously swinging at high fastballs. I don't know whether its stubbornness or lack of ability, but we didn't make the individual adjustments," said head coach Steve Peterson. The Privateers continued to get good offensive production and got ahead early just as they did on Friday night with a run in the top of the second and then got a solo homer from Justin LoFranco in the fourth. The Privateers then seemingly put the icing on the cake in the top of the sixth inning by plating two more runs when a leadoff walk to Steve Rowell put MT starter Kris Lammers behind the eight ball again. A double from Jeff Miller plated Rowell and a one-out hit from LoFranco brought in the fourth run. "Last night they got a bunch of singles and today they hit the gaps," said Peterson. The Blue Raiders finally got a rally started in the bottom of the ninth, but it proved to be too little, too late. Josh Renick singled to lead off the inning, improving his hitting streak to 12 games. With two outs, the Blue Raiders got back-to-back hits from Brandon Johnson and Thomas to plate Renick. A walk to Lammers loaded the bases before Chuck Akers struck out to end the game. Lammers took his second straight loss to fall to 3-2 while Mark Stander improved to 3-0 with the victory. Mark's brother Jeff earned his second straight save in the game. The Blue Raiders and the Privateers will complete the series on Sunday with a game set to begin at 1 PM.

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