MT Sweeps ETSU With a 10-4 Win

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Middle Tennessee got a strong outing from starter Travis Horschel and homers from Nate Jaggers and Justin Sims to upend visiting East Tennessee State 10-4 on Wednesday afternoon. The afternoon got off to a rocky start, though, as the Bucs (6-12) took advantage of a Middle Tennessee (13-5) error to plate three unearned runs in the top of the first. The Blue Raiders battled back in the home half of the inning. Chuck Akers walked to lead off the inning and moved to third on a single from Sims. With two outs, ETSU committed an error on a ball hit by Josh Archer that allowed Akers to score and a second miscue with Chad Cooper at the plate loaded the bases. Doug Kunicki brought in the second run with an RBI walk, cutting the Bucs lead to 3-2 after the first inning. The Blue Raiders continued the assault in the bottom of the second. Jaggers' blast over the left field wall with one out put Middle Tennessee ahead for the first time in the game and, as it turned out, for good. The final nails were driven into the visitors casket in the bottom of the third when the Blue Raiders scored five runs in the frame with two outs. Brett Carroll started the eruption with a single and a Seth Yarbrough double brought him around to score. Akers doubled home Yarbrough in the next at-bat and Jaggers smoked a third consecutive double that plated Akers. Sims ended the scoring with a screaming liner that cleared the left field wall and brought in two more runs. From there it was up to the pitching staff. Horschel held the Bucs scoreless until he was lifted after the sixth inning, turning over the afternoon to the bullpen. Freshman Chris Mobley hurled the seventh, striking out the side and Marshall Nisbett worked the eighth; getting two Bucs on strikes himself. The ninth saw Kyle Sparkman surrender a run before Danny Borne entered the game and shut the door completely. Horschel got the win for MT, upping his record to 2-1 on the year while ETSU starter Reid Casey got the loss. The Blue Raiders will remain at home for the next two games against Austin Peay and will travel to Clarksville to complete the series on Sunday afternoon. Friday's game has been changed from a 7 PM first pitch to 3 PM due to the cold temperatures that are supposed to grip the middle Tennessee area for the next few days. Both home contests will be broadcast on WMTS FM 88.3 locally and via the internet on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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