

November 1, 2006

Men Just Miss Tourney Victory

Bailes ties for 6th, Narramore 9th in final fall event

MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee fell behind early before making a huge comeback only to fall just short on the final three holes, finishing fourth Tuesday at the Sam Hall Invitational in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The Blue Raiders started the day third but dropped to 10th in the opening holes of the day at Canebrake Country Club. Middle Tennessee then made a sterling comeback, pulling within three shots of the lead with three holes to play before falling back.

"It was a very good comeback and we had an opportunity to win the golf tournament on the last nine holes," head coach Johnny Moore said. "We probably expended all of our energy coming back and weren't able to finish the job."

The Blue Raiders were led by junior [Nick Bailes](#), who fired a final-round 72 after the best 36-hole score of his career on Monday. Bailes tied for sixth overall with a three-round total of 210, 3-under par.

Sophomore [Chas Narramore](#) placed ninth at 1-under after a final-round 73. Narramore's second-round 68 on Monday was the low round of the tournament for Middle Tennessee.

Redshirt freshman [Craig Smith](#) was five-under par with two holes to play before a triple bogey on No. 17. Smith still posted an impressive 69 on his final 18 holes and tied for 24th overall at 3-over par 216.

Senior [Bart Barnes](#) tied for 41st overall after a final-round 74, but it could have been much worse if not for Barnes steadying the ship after a disastrous nine on No. 2. Barnes played the final 16 holes in 1-under and posted a three-round score of 216.

Sophomore [Rick Cochran](#) suffered through his worst outing of the fall after Top 10 finishes in his first three events. Cochran finished with a 77 on Tuesday and a three-round total of 221, 8-over par.

"Bailes turned in his best tournament of the fall and was very steady, and [Craig Smith](#) showed his potential. He just has to learn to finish," Moore said.

"[Bart Barnes](#) also did a great job because he could have laid down after the second hole but he really played hard and ended his round with an eagle on No. 18, holing out from about 170 yards."

Middle Tennessee does not return to action until the spring in February in Guadalajara, Mexico.

SAM HALL INVITATIONAL

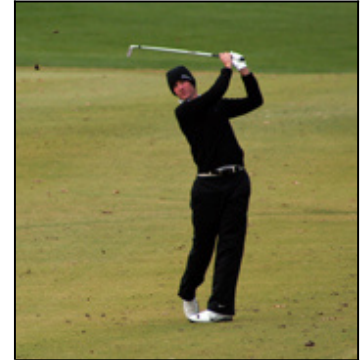
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Team Scores

1. UNC-Greensboro 286-281-278=845 (-7)
2. Rhode Island 281-282-287=850 (-2)
3. South Florida 280-291-280=851 (-1)
4. Middle Tennessee 290-275-288=853 (+1)
- T5. Austin Peay 287-276-292=855 (+3)
- T5. Louisiana Tech 286-285-284=855 (+3)
7. New Orleans 285-291-287=863 (+11)
8. Louisiana-Monroe 287-294-285=866 (+14)
9. Jacksonville State 291-289-288=868 (+16)
10. Troy 287-294-293=874 (+22)
11. Arkansas State 296-291-295=882 (+30)
12. Southern Miss 295-302-288=885 (+33)

Individual Scores

- T6. [Nick Bailes](#) 69-69-72=210 (-3)
9. [Chas Narramore](#) 71-68-73=212 (-1)
- T24. [Craig Smith](#) 75-72-69=216 (+3)
- T41. [Bart Barnes](#) 77-69-74=220 (+7)
47. [Rick Cochran](#) 75-69-77=221 (+8)



Redshirt freshman Craig Smith fired the low round on Tuesday with a 69, helping the Blue Raiders finish fourth at the Sam Hall Invitational in Hattiesburg, Miss. (Bradley Lambert)

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