

April 3, 2007

Blue Raiders second at Lady Eagle Classic Team turns in fifth straight top 3 finish

MT Media Relations

HATTIESBURG, Miss. - Middle Tennessee entered the final round of the Southern Miss Lady Eagle Classic in second place, trailing West Florida by five strokes, at the Canebrake Golf Course in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The Blue Raiders caught and passed West Florida, outshooting the competition by nine shots; however, UAB stormed from behind with a 303 and edged Middle Tennessee by one stroke for the tournament title.

UAB finished 899 for the tournament to slip past Middle Tennessee, which finished with a 900 for the three-round event. The Blue Raiders' second-place finish marks their fifth straight top 3 finish this spring, and it is their seventh top five finish in nine tournaments this year.

Taryn Durham entered the final round with the tournament lead but settled tied for third after shooting an 8-over 79 Tuesday and finishing with a 220. **Leigh Wilkins** had Middle Tennessee's best final round with a 3-over 74 and finished tied for ninth. The 225 ties Wilkins' best three-round total this year and she finished in the top 10 for the third time this spring.

Clara Leathers also tied for ninth with her best finish as a Blue Raider - a 225, while **Mallory Bishop** was 18th with a 230. **Jamey Dillard** rounded out the Middle Tennessee scoring with a 247.

Durham led the field in birdies with 10, while Wilkins' 38 pars out of 54 holes were the most. Durham and Wilkins tied for third in par-3 scoring at 1-under.

The Blue Raiders will play in the Sun Belt Conference championships in Orlando, Fla., April 16-18.

Southern Miss Lady Eagle Classic Canebrake Golf Course - Hattiesburg, Miss. Final Results

1 UAB 302 294 303 899 +47

2 Middle Tennessee 304 291 305 900 +48

3 West Florida 294 296 314 904 +52

4 South Alabama 302 302 304 908 +56

5 Southern Mississippi 310 304 305 919 +67

6 Troy 307 313 306 926 +74

7 Samford 327 316 311 954 +102

8 Jackson State 325 335 322 982 +130

2 Middle Tennessee 304 291 305 900

T 3 **Taryn Durham** 74 67 79 220

T 9 **Leigh Wilkins** 73 78 74 225

T 9 **Clara Leathers** 79 69 77 225

18 **Mallory Bishop** 78 77 75 230



(L to R) Middle Tennessee coach Rachael Short and Blue Raiders Mallory Bishop, Jamey Dillard, Leigh Wilkins, Taryn Durham, and Clara Leathers pose with their runner-up award at the Lady Eagle Classic.

(Southern Miss.)

34 **Jamey Dillard** 86 80 81 247

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