

Durham rallies with one of best rounds of career

Third-round 68 second lowest in program history

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LEXINGTON, Ky. - After two mediocre rounds by her standards, Middle Tennessee senior Taryn Durham stormed back with one of the best 18 holes of her exceptional career in the final round of the Wildcat Fall Invitational at the University Club of Kentucky.

Durham's 4-under 68 was the best round of the day by three strokes and made her just one of two golfers in the field to shoot below par against a whipping wind gusting directly into the players' path for most the of the 18 holes. The 68 is the second lowest of her career and also is the second-best round in school history.

As a result of her strong play, Durham vaulted from the middle of the pack to a tie for eighth and notched her 27th career top 10 finish with a 7-over 223. Mallory Bishop enjoyed a solid weekend and bagged a top 20 finish by tying for 18th at 11-over 227. Leigh Wilkins tied for 23rd at 13-over 229.



Their combined efforts enabled Middle Tennessee to gain two spots in the final round and shoot 305 for the day to finish sixth overall, two strokes behind Mississippi State for the fifth spot. Alabama won the tournament with a 13-over 877. The Blue Raiders shot 923 for the three-day event.

"It was good to see the girls come back after a disappointing second round Sunday," Middle Tennessee coach Rachael Short said. "We played two really good rounds and today's score was impressive because of some tough conditions. It was extremely windy and the girls just battled.

Taryn really came back strong. Her 68 on this day is really an impressive score."

It was not only the low score of the final round but it tied for the third lowest for the tournament. She started on the back Monday and was already cruising along at 3-under when she holed an eagle on 15 to go 5-under. Durham encountered her only slip of the day when double bogeyed the par-5 16. She would finish the back at 3-under and stay solid as she finished her round on the front. Durham, who entered the tournament ranked 27th individually in the Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index, ran her individual record to 159-8.

Jamey Dillard (246) and Clara Leathers (252) rounded out the scoring for Middle Tennessee.

Wildcat Fall Invitational

University Club of Kentucky, Par-72

Final round team scores

- 1 Arkansas 292-290-295 877 +13
- 2 Florida 295-292-298 885 +21
- 3 Arkansas 298-301-299 989 +34
- 4 Kentucky 301-305-304 910 +46
- 5 Mississippi State 311-307-303 921 +57
- 6 Middle Tennessee 305-313-305 923 +59**
- 7 Central Florida 300-311-313 924 +25
- 8 South Florida 301-301-323 925 +61
- 9 Miami (Fla.) 317-313-306 936 +72
- 10 Illinois 311-304-325 940 +76
- 11 Memphis 322-317-313 952 +88
- 12 Richmond 327-315-338 980 +116
- 13 Indiana State 325-318-339 982 +118
- 14 Marshall 327-324-337 988 +124

6 Middle Tennessee scores

- T8 Taryn Durham 77-78-68 223 +7
- T18 Mallory Bishop 74-72-81 227 +11
- T23 Leigh Wilkins 74-76-79 229 +13
- T61 Jamey Dillard 80-87-79 246 +30
- 67 Clara Leathers 83-90-79 252 +36

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