Leathers closes UALR Women's Classic with career-best round

Blue Raiders sixth in 20-team field

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HOT SPRINGS, Ark. - Middle Tennessee's women's golf team produced its highest finish of the spring under first-year Head Coach Chris Adams, battling to a sixth-place finish behind a sterling effort from sophomore Clara Leathers at the UALR Women's Golf Classic.

Leathers tied her career high with a 3-under 69 and was the only player to post a sub-par round at the Diamante Country Club. In fact, her third-round 69 tied for the low round of the tournament and was one of just five rounds under par during the three-day event. Leathers turned in a personal-best seventh-place finish for her third career Top 10 showing.

Middle Tennessee shot 929 for the tournament to finish sixth. The Blue Raiders 310 Tuesday was the fifth-best round of the day.

"I knew the scores would be high because of the conditions and they were," Adams said. "The greens were bumpy and sandy and the weather conditions were tough. The course was difficult and that's what makes Clara's play so encouraging. To shoot 3-under under the conditions we faced is an impressive round."

Leathers was the third different Blue Raider to lead the team in scoring this spring, following Jamey

Dillard and Taryn Durham. Dillard turned in the second lowest score for Middle Tennessee at the UALR Women's Golf Classic with a 233 to finish tied for 27th. Durham and freshman Morgan Hale tied for 36th with a 237 and Leigh Wilkins was tied for 51st with a 242.

"I am encouraged. We know we are getting closer and we have one month from today to get ready for the conference tournament," Adams said. "We have played three tournaments this spring and we have had three different players lead us in scoring and that's encouraging because any of our players could be the No. 1 scorer. There were a lot of positives to come from this tournament. The course was difficult for everyone but our players really battled through it out there. We are getting closer and closer and having different ladies play well so it's a matter of getting all the cylinders going at the same time."

UALR Women's Golf Classic
Diamante CC, Par-72
Hot Springs, Ark.
Final round scores
1 Tulsa 305-300-307 912
2 Florida International 305-300-308 913
3 UALR 301-308-309 918
4 Texas State 305-302-316 923
5 Central Arkansas 311-307-308 926
6 Middle Tennessee 310-309-310 929
7 Sam Houston State 316-303-312 931
8 Missouri State 307-307-321 935
9 Oral Roberts 314-306-322 942
10 Eastern Michigan 323-305-315 943
11 Texas El Paso 314-313-317 944
Texas A&M Corpus Christi 316-315-313 944
13 Texas Pan-American 317-314-324 955
14 Toledo 321-316-329 966
15 McNeese State 326-313-330 969
North Texas 328-312-329 969
17 Nothern Iowa 328-315-327 970
18 Wichita State 324-319-328 971
19 Western Kentucky 324-324-326 974
20 Arkansas State 324-312-340 976

6 MT Scores (929)
T7 Clara Leathers 79-77-69 225
T27 Jamey Dillard 78-77-78 233
T36 Taryn Durham 77-78-82 237
T36 Morgan Hale 76-77-84 237
T51 Leigh Wilkins 81-80-81 242