

September 20, 2004

Blue Raiders struggle in opening two rounds of Raising Cane Classic

MT Media Relations

HATTIESBURG, Miss. - Middle Tennessee's men's golf team opened the Raising Cane Classic with a 588 after 36 holes to stand in 13th place in the 15-team field. The Blue Raiders fired a 296 in round one, then came back to register a 292 in the second round.

"We had two guys to put up two bad rounds on Monday that really hurt our chances," said Head Coach Johnny Moore. "We have a few players that are real inconsistent right now, but it's early in the season and I expect us to get better in that area. Hopefully we will come out on Tuesday and finish strong."

Freshman [Nick Bailes](#) led the Blue Raiders with a 145 to tie for 29th overall. Bailes had an even par 72 in round one then came back with a 73. Junior [Josh Nelms](#) was one shot back of Bailes with a 146 to tie for 35th. Nelms, who also opened with a 72, registered a 74 in the afternoon round.

[Blake Bivens](#) had rounds of 73-74 for a 147 to tie for 48th, while [Chris Webb](#) struggled with a 79 in round one before bouncing back with the team's best round of the day. Webb, playing in his first tournament of the fall, had a one-under par 71 in round two.

Freshman [Brandon Burris](#) is tied for 85th after carding a 163. Burris had rounds of 88-75.

The Blue Raiders will play the final round on Tuesday morning.

TEAM SCORES

1 Mississippi, U. of 279 278 557
2 Sam Houston St. U. 284 286 570
So. Florida, U. of 289 281 570
Louisiana-Lafayette 284 286 570
Tulane University 283 287 570
6 Mississippi St. U. 288 287 575
7 Jacksonville St. 291 286 577
Austin Peay State U. 298 279 577
9 Louisiana Tech Univ. 290 289 579
10 New Orleans, U. of 294 286 580
11 Mc Neese State Univ. 297 285 582
12 Southern Miss 292 294 586
13 Middle Tennessee 296 292 588
14 Arkansas State U. 292 303 595
15 South Alabama, U. of 305 296 601

MT SCORES

T 29 [Nick Bailes](#) 72 73 145
T 35 [Josh Nelms](#) 72 74 146
T 48 [Blake Bivens](#) 73 74 147
T 69 [Chris Webb](#) 79 71 150
T 85 [Brandon Burris](#) 88 75 163

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