

December 5, 2008

Women's golf lands three standouts during NCAA Early Signing Period

Haggard, Love, Smith sign with Middle Tennessee

Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's golf coach Chris Adams has announced the signing of three players to National Letters of Intent and all three bring impeccable credentials.

Ashley Haggard, Olivia Love and Stephanie Smith all have signed National Letters of Intent with Middle Tennessee and each player has a history of strong tournament play, much to Adams' delight.

"I have never been more excited about three complete players coming into a program," Adams said. "They all know each other and they all have history together as far as playing tournaments together. I think that will make for an easier transition for them to the college game. All three of these players will be a great addition to the team we already in place."

All three players have Tennessee ties. Haggard attends Hardin County High School in Savannah, Tenn., Smith attends Davidson Academy in Nashville, and Love is home schooled.

Haggard was named the Jackson Sun's Female Golfer of the Year in 2008 and she was "On The Ball" Magazine's Female Golfer of the Year in 2007. Haggard reached the TSSAA Class AAA State Tournament all four years of high school and earned three Top 10 finishes, including third in 2008.

Love has enjoyed her greatest success in Junior Golf and has won several events on the Southeastern Junior Golf Tour. She was champion of the 2007 School Days Tournament, as well as the AJGT Limestone Springs Champion, the SJGT Tournament Greystone Champion, and the TGA Horton Championship.

Smith is a four-time All-State honoree and won the TSSAA Individual State Championship in 2007 and 2008. She was medalist at the Davidson Invitational, the Bruin Invitational, and the Mario Invitational.

"All three of these players have enjoyed a high level of success in high school and in junior golf," Adams said. "Their work ethic and skill level should allow them to compete and be a big part of our future."

Middle Tennessee Women's Golf NCAA Early Signing Period Quotes Head Coach Chris Adams

On Stephanie Smith:

"Stephanie comes to us from a great high school program. She won the state championship the last two years and she has a proven record as a junior. She qualified for the US Junior the last two years. I believe she will be able to step in and contribute. She is a great person and strong contributor. I expect her to be very competitive."

On Olivia Love:

"Olivia will not lack in distance and she has been a great player to watch. Most of Olivia's golf has been Junior Golf. She hits the ball farther than most; she is dedicated and will become a great player."

On Ashley Haggard:

"Ashley is a die-hard who wanted to be at Middle Tennessee and with that attitude I believe will really will contribute and make an impact in our program. She is a sports fanatic who loves being on the course. She has enjoyed a strong career in high school and she will bring that work ethic to the college level."



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