

February 13, 2005

Blue Raider golfers to begin spring schedule on Monday

MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee men's golf team will get the 2005 spring schedule underway on Monday and Tuesday at the Matlock Collegiate Classic in Lakeland, FL. The 54-hole event will take place at the Grasslands Golf and Country Club.



Blake Bivens will lead the Blue Raiders into the spring season, which begins Monday at the Matlock Intercollegiate. (MT)

Highlighting the field will be host Florida Southern, Kansas State, Missouri, VCU, Chattanooga, and Old Dominion.

"This is a very long and difficult course, especially if the wind blows because there is nothing to stop it," Head Coach Johnny Moore said. "Our team is anxious to get things started and to see a little warm sunshine for a change."

The Blue Raiders will lineup with seniors **Blake Bivens** and **Kenny Green**, along with juniors **Patrick McLennan** and **Josh Nelms**, while freshman **Nick Bailes** completes the five.

"I think the guys have played pretty well this winter," Moore said. "We are in great shape and have worked hard since the fall. Hopefully, we can put things together this spring as we work toward the conference championship."

Bivens, Nelms, and Bailes paced the team in scoring during the fall with averages of 74.1 for Bivens and 75.7 each for Nelms and Bailes. Bivens, out of Etowah, Tenn., was the top finisher in four of the five fall tournaments, including a 10th place showing at the Mean Green Classic.

"The most we have played at one time during the winter is nine holes due to the weather, so 54 will be a change for us," Moore added. "However, we have been outside this year more than in years past and I believe that will help us a lot this week."

After the Matlock, the Blue Raiders will take two weeks off before heading to New Orleans for the Tulane Invitational on Feb. 28.

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