

February 22, 2009

## Women's golf starts strong at Kiawah Island Intercollegiate

**Blue Raiders tied for 12th; Weathersby among Top 15 individuals in debut**

*Athletic Communications*

**KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.** - The Middle Tennessee women's golf team is holding its own amongst the loaded 43-team field at the Edwin Watts/Kiawah Island Intercollegiate that includes five of the nation's Top 45 teams.

The Blue Raiders are tied for 12th after shooting 23-over 311 in the opening round of the spring opener at Cougar Point Golf Course in Kiawah Island, S.C., here Sunday afternoon. They will play the Oak Point Course for Monday's second round and the tournament concludes Tuesday.

Mississippi State transfer [Hannah Weathersby](#) made her Blue Raider debut a memorable one. The freshman standout shot 2-over 74 and is tied for 12th overall. [Clara Leathers](#) shot 6-over on the par-72 course and is tied for 54th, followed by [Karisa Akin](#) (tie 64th, 7-over), [Leigh Wilkins](#) (tie 84th, 8-over), and [Mallory Bishop](#) (10-over).

"Overall we put together a pretty good round to put ourselves in good position going into the second round," Middle Tennessee Head Coach Chris Adams said. "We left a few shots out there but overall it was a good round. Hannah started well for us in her first tournament and that was a good lift. Our top four are all right there so it will be good to see how we approach playing a different course (Oak Point) in the second round."

Weathersby opened with a 3-over starting on the back nine but she came back with a strong 1-under 35 on the front to position herself on the leader board. Her consistent player on the front included pars on eight of the nine holes and a birdie on the par-4 No. 3. In all, Weathersby had two birdies and parred 13 holes during the opening round.

Leathers opened strong with a 2-over on the back but she was 4-over on the front. She was 2-over through the first 12 holes but had five straight bogeys before closing the round with a birdie on the par-4 No. 9.

Middle Tennessee is nine shots behind co-leaders Miami and East Tennessee State, which opened the tournament at 12-over. Only eight shots separate the top 14 teams in the field heading into Monday's moving day.

### Edwin Watts/Kiawah Island Intercollegiate

#### Cougar Point GC, Par-72

#### First Round Team Scores

T1 Miami, U. of -300  
 T1 East Tennessee St. -300  
 3 Oral Roberts Univ. -303  
 4 Mississippi, U. of -305  
 T5 Western Carolina U. -306  
 T5 UCF -306  
 7 Charleston, Coll. of -307  
 T8 Florida, U of -309  
 T8 Nebraska, U. of -309  
 T10 Central Arkansas -310  
 T10 Oregon, U. of -310  
**T12 Middle Tennessee -311**  
 T12 Mississippi St. U. -311  
 T 12 UNC Wilmington -311  
 15 Kentucky, U. of -312  
 16 Maryland, U. of -313  
 T17 South Florida -314  
 T17 Jacksonville St. -314  
 19 Augusta State -315  
 20 Longwood University -316  
 21 Wm. & Mary, Coll. of -318  
 T22 Toledo, U. of -319  
 T22 Oregon State U. -319



Head Coach Chris Adams was pleased with the overall results after the first round of the Kiawah Island Intercollegiate, where Middle Tennessee is tied for 12th. (MT)

T24 Illinois State Univ. -320  
T24 Texas State -320  
26 Charleston Southern -322  
27 Bucknell University -325  
28 Ball State -326  
T29 Elon University -328  
T29 Old Dominion -328  
31 Winthrop University -329  
32 Richmond - 330  
33 Kennesaw State -331  
34 Southern Methodist -333  
T35 Cincinnati, U. of -334  
T35 USC Upstate -334  
T35 Missouri State -334  
38 Marshall University -339  
39 Southern Illinois U. -341  
40 Bradley University -344  
41 Wofford College -347  
42 Mercer University -350  
43 Citadel, The -352

**T12 MT Team Scores**

T12 [Hannah Weathersby](#) 74 +2  
T54 [Clara Leathers](#) 78 +6  
T64 [Karisa Akin](#) 79 +7  
T84 [Leigh Wilkins](#) 80 +8  
T119 [Mallory Bishop](#) 82 +10

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