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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.



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) 

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
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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