

March 24, 2009

Men's golf knocks off No. 6 Indiana to capture Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship

Blue Raiders beat top three seeds to win prestigious event

Athletic Communications

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. - Middle Tennessee stunned top-seeded and No. 6-ranked Indiana, 4-1, to complete a memorable run and capture the title at the Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship at The Farms Golf Club in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Tuesday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders' first title of the season came in their most high-profile event against a field that included 14 of the nation's Top 50 teams, including four Top 10s. After earning the No. 7 seed and a spot in the Championship Bracket during Sunday's medal play, Middle Tennessee disposed of the tournament's top three seeds to take the title.

The Blue Raiders, who entered the event ranked 73rd in the Golfstat rankings, knocked off No. 2 seed and 30th-ranked San Diego State in the quarterfinals, disposed of No. 3 seed and 22nd-ranked Florida State in the semifinals before dropping No. 1 seed Indiana in the championship match. Middle Tennessee also picked up a win against No. 7 Alabama and tied No. 5 Stanford during Sunday's two rounds of stroke play.

"It's unbelievable, really," Middle Tennessee second-year Head Coach Whit Turnbow said. "The fact that we came in here as the second-lowest rated team and to pull off advancing to the finals and then winning the tournament means a lot for Middle Tennessee, the community and our fans. I'm glad that our guys represented the folks back home the way they did and we look forward to trying to repeat next year."

Middle Tennessee won a closely-contested match that left little margin for error. Indiana actually gained the first point when Jorge Campillo took a 3 and 2 win from Blue Raider [Rick Cochran](#) at the No. 1 spot; however, Middle Tennessee won the remaining four matches.

[Jason Millard](#) evened the team match with a 2 and 1 victory against Seth Brandon. Millard took control of the match on its third hole and led by as many as four holes twice. The final three matches all went 18 holes with Middle Tennessee claiming all three. [Chas Narramore](#) never trailed in his match against Indiana's Alex Martin, but the Hoosier evened the match at both Nos. 13 and 16. Narramore regained the lead, 1-up, on 17 before giving the Blue Raiders a 2-1 team lead with a memorable finish on 18.

Narramore had a 5-footer to halve his match on 18 and give the Blue Raiders a leg up. His putt was in the middle of the cup to put Middle Tennessee on top for good.

"It was something else," Turnbow said. "It's what you dream about as a golfer. (Narramore) is on 18, has that 5-footer for the win, everybody watching and he nails it. Everyone was clapping and the guys were fist-pumping and hugging one another. It was great to see all that emotion because these young men worked hard and they have earned this feeling."

[Craig Smith](#) also never trailed in his triumph against Drew Allenspach, claiming the lead after the match's fifth hole and winning 1-up. [Kent Bulle](#) would close out the win for Middle Tennessee with a birdie on his last hole for a 2-up result.

"It's amazing and it's a great feeling," said junior standout [Craig Smith](#), who joined Narramore and Bulle with victories in each of their three matches. "Everyone contributed and this proves what coach has always said about the quality of players we have and the depth we have in our lineup. It showed during this tournament. I'm proud of the team and what we accomplished here this week."

Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship

Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

The Farms Golf Club

Match Play Results

Final Round

March 24

Championship Bracket

Championship Match - (7) Middle Tennessee def. (1) Indiana, 4-1

Third-Place Match - (5) UCLA def. (3) Florida State, 2-1-2*

*UCLA wins third tiebreaker

Fifth-Place Match - (8) Stanford def. (2) San Diego State, 3-1-1



Jason Millard watches his shot during the championship match play at the Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship Tuesday. Millard won his match to help lead the Blue Raiders to the victory. (MT)

Seventh-Place Match - (6) Texas Tech def. (4) Texas A&M, 3-2

Consolation Bracket

Consolation Match - (12) Alabama def. (10) San Diego, 3-2

11th-Place Match - (16) Duke def. (14) Louisville, 2-1-2

13th-Place Match - (9) Arizona State def. (11) Chattanooga, 3-2

15th-Place Match - (15) UC Irvine def. (13) Charlotte, 4-0-1

1 MT Results

Championship Match - (7) Middle Tennessee def. (1) Indiana, 4-1

Jorge Campillo, Indiana def. [Rick Cochran](#), Middle Tennessee, 3 and 2

[Chas Narramore](#), Middle Tennessee def. Alex Martin, Indiana, 1-up

[Jason Millard](#), Middle Tennessee def. Seth Brandon, Indiana, 2 and 1

[Kent Bulle](#), Middle Tennessee def. David Erdy, Indiana, 2-up

[Craig Smith](#), Middle Tennessee def. Drew Allenspach, Indiana, 1-up

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