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Men's golf team trying to close out the fall season on a high note

Aldila Intercollegiate begins Monday

Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee golf coach Whit Turnbow likes a challenge, and his Blue Raider golfers, currently ranked 36th nationally, have a big one to close out the 2009 fall campaign.

Middle Tennessee will co-host the Aldila Intercollegiate with Chattanooga, on Chattanooga's home course, the Council Fire Golf Club.

"We are in great shape to put a strong finish on a solid fall campaign," pointed out Turnbow. "We want to go into the off-season on a good note."

The Blue Raiders will have to earn it against a very strong field. Six of the teams, including Middle Tennessee, are ranked in the Top 50, and two of them, including Chattanooga, are ranked in the Top 25.

"This is the kind of tournament that, if you play well, you can move up in the rankings, but if you don't, you can drop," said Turnbow. "Chattanooga will be really hard to beat on their home course. They are very good."

But Turnbow is not conceding anything. "We have five guys that can play No. 1 for us at any time. We have great depth, and that has helped us more than anything".

Leading the way is junior [Jason Millard](#), who has a stroke average of 71.3 and a low round of 66. He is followed by senior [Kent Bulle](#), with 71.9 strokes per round, and a low round of 68.

The other three are sophomore [Hunter Green](#) (73.0, 67), sophomore [Brad Simons](#) (73.4, 72) and senior [Craig Smith](#) (73.6, 68).

"Our newcomers, Green and Simons, have come on strong. They are ahead of the curve, and as long as they continue to be coachable, they will continue to improve," noted Turnbow.

Turnbow is proud of one aspect of the team's play so far. "We will never play a team that will be any tougher than we are. Our guys come on strong when the chips are down,"

That toughness resulted in the Blue Raiders' Mason Rudolph championship in September, when they came from 12 shots back on the final day to win in a playoff.



Jason Millard owns the team's best stroke average entering the final tournament of the fall season. ()

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