Blue Raiders make another incredible comeback to win seasons third tournament

Millard takes medalist honors

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JONESBORO, Ark. - The comeback kids were at it again Tuesday in the 14th annual ASU Red Wolf Classic. For the third time this season, Middle Tennessee's men's golf team came back from nearly double digit strokes on the final day to pick up a victory.

The Blue Raiders shot a 282 in the final round to match the 14th best score in school history and defeated Central Arkansas by two strokes. Stephen F. Austin was third, Louisiana-Lafayette came in fourth and Illinois State rounded out the top five.

The No. 41 ranked Blue Raiders came from 11 strokes down in the final round to win the Mason Rudolph in the fall and then a few weeks later won the Aldila Scenic Invite after entering the final round nine strokes down. On Tuesday, Middle Tennessee made up a 12 stroke deficit to win for the 10th time under Head Coach Whit Turnbow.

"I have said all year that this was one of the most mentally tough teams in the country and they proved me right again," said Turnbow. "After Monday's rounds I said we needed to make a lot of birdies if we wanted to win and that is exactly what the guys did.

"This is a victory that we dedicate to Jeff Hendrix, who bears the name of our indoor facility, as he is battling some health issues right now. If you just keep believing and keep fighting, then good things will happen."

Junior Jason Millard led the furious charge by taking medalist honors for the first time in his career. Millard shot a 209 to match the ninth best 54-hole score in school history. The Murfreesboro native carded a 6-under par 66 on Tuesday to equal his best round of the year as he also registered a 66 in the Blue Raiders' comeback victory at the Mason Rudolph.

"I got off to a really good start by knocking in a 15-footer on the first and third holes which was a key to my round," added Millard. "I actually bogeyed the easiest hole on the course but came right back with a birdie to keep my momentum. I just made putts today and eliminated mistakes.

"As a team, we were patient and knew we could come back because we had done it before. We just played aggressive the entire round. It was a great team effort."

Senior Kent Bulle had another solid showing as he finished 2-under par (214) to tie for 10th to give him his fourth top 10 finish of the year. Bulle finished with 15 birdies for the tournament which was second most for the Blue Raiders behind Millard's 17.

Brad Simons also fired a 214 to grab his best career finish with a tie for 10th. Simons shot a 2-under 70 in the final round.

Senior Craig Smith had a 221 to tie for 40th while Hunter Green turned in a 74 on Tuesday to tie for 71st with a 228.

"I am happy for Jason (Millard) as he picked up his first win. He played one great round of golf today. I am proud of this entire team for the toughness they displayed."

The Blue Raiders will now prepare for the Crooked Stick Invitational on April 19-20 in Carmel, Ind.

TEAM SCORES

1 **Middle Tennessee** -6 F -6 287 289 282 858
2 Central Arkansas -4 F +7 285 280 295 860
3 Stephen F. Austin St. -3 F +1 283 289 289 861
4 Louisiana-LaFayette E F -4 290 290 284 864
5 Illinois State U. +3 F E 286 293 288 867
6 Arkansas-Little Rock +5 F +5 286 290 293 869
7 UMKC +7 F +6 286 291 294 871
8 Austin Peay State U. +11 F +4 295 288 292 875
9 Missouri State +15 F +11 289 291 299 879
10 Jacksonville St. +19 F +15 295 285 303 883
11 Louisiana-Monroe +24 F +2 305 293 290 888
12 SIU Edwardsville +28 F +11 298 295 299 892
13 Arkansas State U. +30 F +14 307 285 302 894
14 Tennessee-Martin +31 F +14 306 287 302 895
15 Troy Univ. +32 F +18 296 294 306 896
16 Southern Illinois U. +34 F +14 298 298 302 898
17 Meridian CC +36 F +9 301 302 297 900
18 De Paul University +42 F +8 309 301 296 906

MT SCORES

1 Jason Millard (3) 70 73 66 209

T10 Kent Bulle (1) 72 70 72 214
T10 Brad Simons (5) 71 73 70 214
T40 Craig Smith (2) 74 73 74 221
T71 Hunter Green (4) 79 75 74 228

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