Blue Raiders hanging tough at NCAA Regionals

Just 8 shots back of 2nd entering final round

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BREMERTON, Wash. - Middle Tennessee remained in contention to advance to the National Championships with a solid 294 in the second round of the NCAA West Regionals. The Blue Raiders are in seventh place and just six shots back of fifth place as the top five teams advance to the next round. In rainy and cold conditions, Middle Tennessee has a 36-hole total of 593 on the 7,104-yard Olympic Course at the Gold Mountain Golf Club.

"We played much better today than we did in the first round," said Head Coach Whit Turnbow. "We start the final round just eight shots back of second place so Saturday it will be anybody's game." Host Washington is the overall leader with a 7-under par 569 and is 16 shots in front of second place Illinois. Southern Cal and San Diego are tied for third as both have a 586 cumulative score, while Oregon State stands in fifth with a 587.

Brad Simons, Jason Millard, and Kent Bulle led the way on Friday for the Blue Raiders. Simons shot an even par 72 to move into a tie for 22nd overall, while Millard matched Simons' round of 72 and jumped from 44th to 32nd.

Bulle, who led the field in round one in birdies and par 3 scoring, turned in a 73 and is tied for 25th.

Hunter Green carded a 78 in round two to slip back into a tie for 40th while senior Craig Smith completed the scoring with a 77 and is tied for 55th.

The third and final round will get underway at 10 AM CT on Saturday with the top five teams moving on to Chattanooga, Tenn., for the National Championship June 4-6.

TEAM SCORES
1 Washington -7 F -5 286 283 569
2 Illinois +9 F +4 293 292 585
T3 Southern California +10 F +1 297 289 586

T3 San Diego +10 F +4 294 292 586
5 Oregon State U. +11 F +8 291 296 587
6 Colorado State Univ. +13 F +10 291 298 589
7 **Middle Tennessee** +17 F +6 299 294 593
8 VCU +19 F +5 302 293 595
9 Eastern Michigan U. +21 F +6 303 294 597
10 New Mexico +24 F +3 309 291 600
11 SMU +25 F +6 307 294 601
12 Loyola College +36 F +16 308 304 612
13 Fresno State +44 F +14 318 302 620

MT SCORES
T22 Brad Simons 75-72=147
T25 Kent Bulle 75-73=148
T32 Jason Millard 77-72=149
T40 Hunter Green 72-78=150
T57 Craig Smith 78-77=155

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