Trio of Blue Raider golfers enjoying great summers

Team will begin fall play in September

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Head Golf Coach could barely suppress a smile as he talked about he summer exploits of his 2010-11 Blue Raider team.

"The whole team has had a good summer, but we have had three that have been exceptional," said Turnbow.

Brett Patterson, an incoming freshman from McMinnville, paced a trio of Middle Tennessee golfers who have had highly successful summers. He won the Tennessee Amateur Match Play Championship, becoming the youngest winner ever.

He also won the Spirit of America Championship in Decatur, AL and he was the youngest ever to win that one as well. The most youthful winner before Patterson was PGA Tour player Heath Slocum. Patterson's win at the Spirit of America got him an exemption to play on the Hooters Tour as an amateur. He competed in week 13 of the Carolina Series at the Tidewater Golf Course in Little River, SC held on Aug. 11-13. Patterson will be paired with Grant Waite, who has spent time on the PGA Tour, for at least the first couple of rounds.

"In match play, Patterson beat several good players, but in the second round, he beat Danny Green, a legendary amateur out of Jackson, TN, who is a two time Masters participant. From that point on, he went right thru the field," noted Turnbow. "After that, he finished 8th at the State Amateur Stroke play, shooting rounds of 68-78-69-67 for a 282 total. He was 8th out of a very competitive field of 144 golfers.

"Patterson has, without question, had the best summer of any incoming freshman that I can remember in nine years, and has firmly established himself as one of the top five players on our team already, and we are so proud to have him."

Junior Hunter Green was also singled out for having a great summer. He tied for 16th at the Southern Amateur, a major amateur tournament, then finished second in the Tennessee State Amateur in stroke play. He shot 70-68- 66-69, for a total of 273.

"Hunter is one of those kids who seem to get a little better every year, and this summer he's taken another step. He can now put four rounds like this together, when two years ago as a freshman, he couldn't do that," said Turnbow. "Now he's able to go 72 holes and put it together for an entire week, which shows he is maturing and getting better every year.

"Jason Millard, my only senior, Old Steady, tied for sixth at the State Amateur Stroke Play, and shot 67-72-69-73 for 281. Earlier this week he qualified for the second time for the U.S. Amateur, at Willow Point in Knoxville. That is always a huge accomplishment. He shot 67-63 for a 130 total, the second lowest score in a qualifying round at this point," said Turnbow.

The U.S. Amateur will take place at Chambers Bay, in University Place, Washington, August 23-29. Chambers Bay will also host the 2015 U.S. Open.

"All three of these players have had great summers, and we are looking forward to getting them in here and continuing with that momentum," said Turnbow.

"Another incoming freshman, Jordon Jennings, from Dandridge, Tennessee, won the TSSAA state tournament, with Patterson finishing second. The same two also finished 1-2 last year as juniors.

"The whole team has had a good summer, which includes Paul Sansom and Sammy Thompson from Kentucky," declared Turnbow. "It is indicative of their work ethic and the way they go about their business as a whole. We can't wait to get all of them in here and get going."

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