Women's golf preparing for final tournament of the fall

Blue Raiders will play in Lady Paladin Invitational this weekend

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's golf team looks to conclude their fall campaign on a high note this weekend at the three-round Lady Paladin Invitational at Furman Golf Course in Greenville, S.C. "We're going into another new tournament this fall, and we're not really that familiar with the course," head coach Chris Adams said. "However, we're going in with the highest ranking we've ever had, and we need to go in there and finish up the fall on a positive note." The Blue Raiders are currently ranked 66th by Golfstat.com, which is the highest ranking that the program has ever attained under the direction of Adams. Middle Tennessee will look towards a talented trio this weekend, led by Ashley Haggard. The sophomore has carded three rounds this season par or better, including shooting a three-under 69 and an even-par 72 in the first two rounds at the Dale McNamara Invitational en route to finishing tied for ninth. Haggard currently leads the team in stroke average at 75.36, ranking ninth in the Sun Belt this season. Karisa Akin is just decimal points behind her, averaging 75.64 strokes per round. A 2010 All-Sun Belt selection, Akin is coming off her best performance of the fall, finishing tied for seventh at the Dale McNamara. Olivia Love enters the event with a 75.82 average. The sophomore has posted two top 20 finishes this season, highlighted by placing 11th at the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic. Stephanie Smith will participate in the tournament as well. The sophomore has played in all four tournaments this season, which includes a season-best 19th place finish at the USF/Waterlefe Invitational. Also making the trip will be Morgan Hale, a 2010 All-Sun Belt selection. The senior has only participated in six rounds this season, notching a

best round of 73 in the first day of play at the Dale McNamara Invitational. Steph Gough will be competing at the Paladin Invitational as well, but will do so as an individual. The junior carded back-to-back rounds of 77 at the Great Smokies Invitational, her best tournament of the season. Middle Tennessee will open play at the Lady Paladin Invitational on Friday. Daily recaps will be available at GoBlueRaiders.com, and live scoring will by provided by www.Golfstat.com.

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