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Narramore posts career-low 69 in SBC Golf Championships

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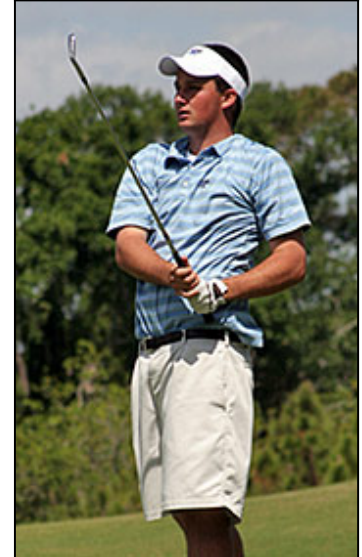
PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. - Middle Tennessee rallied down the back stretch to salvage an 8-over-par 296 during the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Golf Championships at The PGA Village here Monday afternoon.

- **Photos:** [Round One Gallery](#)

The Blue Raiders enter Tuesday's second round in seventh place, 10 strokes off the pace established by Western Kentucky, thanks in large part to players salvaging good rounds with strong play at the end.

"We actually came back and played well down the stretch to give ourselves a chance," Middle Tennessee men's golf coach Johnny Moore said. "Our play today was bad but it's not as bad as it could have been. To play as poorly as we did as a team and still only be 10 shots back is not all that disappointing. We have to go out (Tuesday) and put a number up and see what happens, but we are still in the hunt and that's the main thing."

The play of freshman [Chas Narramore](#), who fired a career-low 69, is one reason the Blue Raiders remain in the hunt entering Tuesday's second round. Afternoon wind gusts took a toll on most teams with later first-round tee times, including Middle Tennessee; however, Narramore was not bothered by the blustery conditions. He led the Blue Raiders with a 3-under-69 and is two strokes behind Western Kentucky's Brent Long, who fired a 67 during his opening round. Narramore shot par on the first nine and then put up the second-best score of any golfer in the field with a 3-under-33 on the back nine.



Blue Raider freshman Chas Narramore fired a career-low 69 and is two shots off the lead at the SBC Championships. (MT)

"I played pretty good today and didn't have any real mistakes," Narramore said. "I hit some really great shots and made a couple of putts. The wind was really tough coming down the stretch and it hampered the play of some people. We just have to put together a solid round Tuesday and see what happens."

Key in Narramore's play was course management as the Kingston, Tenn., native had just one bogey and nailed four birdie putts to help keep the Blue Raiders in contention and put himself in the hunt for low medalist honors.

"I'm really proud of Narramore," Moore said. "He put together a solid round of golf and he was strong from start to finish. We had some players do well down the stretch and that's why we still have a chance, but we have to have some of our older players step up. (Josh) Nelms really battled and hung in there after a tough start and (Rick) Cochran had a nice birdie at the end to help our cause. We have dug ourselves a pretty tough hole but if we are tough enough we can get out of it."

While Narramore was taming the tough course at The PGA Village, his teammates didn't have as easy a time. Sophomore [Nick Bailes](#) fired a two-over 74 and is tied for 21st overall, while Nelms posted a 76 and is tied for 25th. Cochran's 77 puts him among the top 35, while [Spencer Provow](#) finished with a round of 83 and didn't have his score count toward the team total.

"We didn't really play that well as a team, but we are still only 10 strokes back and that's not much in a team tournament this big," Narramore said. "That difference can be made up in two holes. It's not like we are 30 shots back or something. We can come back from this and I feel like we will."

The SBC Championships continue with the second round Tuesday and conclude with the final round on Wednesday.

Team scores:

- 1 Western Kentucky 286
- 2 South Alabama 288
- 3 Arkansas-Little Rock 290
- 4 Troy 292
- 5 North Texas 293
- 5 Arkansas State 293
- 7 Middle Tennessee 296**
- 8 Denver 301
- 9 New Orleans 303
- 10 Louisiana-Lafayette 304

MT Scores

T3 [Chas Narramore](#) 36-33 69
T21 [Nick Bailes](#) 37-37 74
T25 [Josh Nelms](#) 38-38 76
T32 [Rick Cochran](#) 39-38 77
T47 [Spencer Provow](#) 44-39 83

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