

# Middle Tennessee in first at Blue Raider Invitational

## Blue Raiders fire best score of the season in second round

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### **MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -**

Head coach Chris Adams and the Middle Tennessee women's golf team sought to prove something on Monday in the team's first-ever home tournament, and they did, recording the best team score in each of the first two rounds to end day one of the Blue Raider Invitational in first place (out of 13) at 17-over at Old Fort Golf Club in Murfreesboro. "We left a few strokes out there in the first round, but we had a couple players go out there and finish strong," Adams said. "I just reminded the players that this is our course, and we really started to put it together in the second round to put up a pretty good score. We have a lot of golf left, and I look forward to getting it going again tomorrow." After carding a season-best five-over 293 in the second round, Middle Tennessee currently leads the event by seven strokes over Lamar and 13 over fellow Sun Belt member ULM. Karisa Akin is tied for second individually, following up an opening round 75 with an even-par 72 to sit two strokes back of first place in the 78-player field at three-over. "Karisa played really well



this afternoon," Adams said. "I

think she left a couple out there, but it's nice to see an even par go up there. She's in pretty good position for a nice finish tomorrow." Allie Knight is ninth at five-over, and Natalie Chrisopolos is one shot back and tied for 10th at six-over. Olivia Love opened up the day with a six-over 78, but rebounded in the second round with an even-par 72. The junior is also tied for 10th. "Olivia didn't do so well down the stretch in our last tournament, but she's bounced back." Adams said. "She hung tough out there and got a couple birdies late today. I'm proud of the way she came back in the second round." Ashley Haggard rounded out the line-up, finishing the day at eight-over to sit in tie for 14th. Individually, Stephanie Smith grabbed a share of the tournament lead after the first round with an even-par 72, but fired a 12-over 84 in the second to tie for 31st. Haley Cothran is tied for 14th at eight-over, and Steph Gough is tied for 64th at 20-over. Middle Tennessee will look to keep it rolling in its final round of the fall season on Tuesday. The third round of the Blue Raider Invitational is set to tee off at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Golf Club. **TEAM SCORES** 1. Middle Tennessee - 300-293=593 (+17) 2. Lamar - 303-297=600 (+20) 3. ULM - 305-301=606 (+26) T4. Arkansas State - 307-302=609 (+29) T4. UALR - 301-308=609 (+29) 6. Southern Illinois - 306-304=610 (+30) 7. Murray State - 312-305=617 (+37) 8. Troy - 306-313=619 (+39) 9. UTEP - 311-311=622 (+42) 10. Winthrop - 312-318=630 (+50) 11. Belmont - 320-313=633 (+53) 12. South Alabama - 324-315=639 (+59) 13. Western Kentucky - 325-321=646 (+66)

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