Women's golf opens fall slate at Chris Banister Classic

Blue Raiders return seven from last year's squad

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's golf team opens the fall campaign this weekend at the Chris Banister Golf Classic hosted by Jacksonville State. The Blue Raiders tee off at 8 a.m. Sunday at Silver Lakes Golf Club in Glencoe, Ala., before concluding the 54-hole tournament on Tuesday.

In addition to MT, the field includes Northern Kentucky, Texas State, Murray State, Tennessee Tech, Belmont, Lipscomb, Lamar, WKU and the hosting Gamecocks.

The Blue Raiders return seven student-athletes from last year's squad that finished second at the Sun Belt Championship under the guidance of sixth-year coach Chris Adams. The 2012-13 squad features three seniors in Ashley Haggard, Olivia Love and Stephanie Smith. Natalie Chrisopulos is the lone junior on the squad, while Haley Cothran, Allie Knight and Emily Miller comprise the junior class.

The Blue Raiders welcome three new faces this year in freshmen Madison Denton, Avery George and Emily Williams.

Haggard competed in 29 events last season for the Blue Raiders, with her best finished coming at the Samford Intercollegiate where shed tied for sixth place. She carded a low round of 71 twice last season, with her best three-round total coming at the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic in the fall of 2011.

Love also competed in every event for MT last year, registering one of her best career finishes at the 2011 Blue Raider Invitational. She finished tied for fifth at the event with a 223 three-round total.

Smith competed in 11 contests with a low round of 72 at the Blue Raider Invitational, while Chrisopulos played in 21 events and finished 17th at the Sun Belt Championship.

Knight led last year's freshman class, competing in all 29 events with a fifth place finish at the Sun Belt Championship. She carded her season-best score of 218 at the league tournament, just two over par. Corthran played in nine events last season, while Miller did not see any action.

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