Men's golf begins fall season at The Farm

Carpet Capital Intercollegiate one of nation's elite fields

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DALTON, Ga. - Middle Tennessee State University's men's golf team has always believed that the way to the NCAA Championship at the end of the season is down the path of greatest resistance. Whit Turnbow, coach of the nationally ranked Blue Raiders, has made sure that this fall's segment of the schedule fits that mold.

For the second year in a row, Middle Tennessee will open at The Farm, a world-class course in Dalton, GA. The Blue Raiders will face a field of six SEC teams (Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, LSU, South Carolina and Tennessee), four Atlantic Coast teams (Clemson, North Carolina, Wake Forest, and host Georgia Tech) and five "national" teams, including Middle Tennessee, Kennesaw State, North Florida, Texas, and UT Chattanooga.

Turnbow calls this 54-hole tournament, to be played on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 7th-9th, "one of the top five fields in the country. Of all of the hundreds and hundreds of tournaments, this is one of the very best."

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The prestigious tournament is called the Carpet Capital Collegiate. It is played on a challenging, par 72, 6,906-yard layout.

Turnbow feels that the 2012-2013 edition of the Blue Raiders is "pretty deep", despite the loss of two of his top players from last year, seniors Hunter Green and Brad Simons. Green paced the team with a pair of wins, three Top Five's and six Top Ten finishes. He also had a team-leading stroke average of 72.2, and a low round of 66. Simons had a 74.1 stroke average and a pair of Top Ten finishes.

Despite losing Green and Simons, Turnbow can take comfort in knowing that he has an experienced, albeit young, group of golfers returning.

"We have a group of guys this year that we feel are going to make a fairly significant impact. Payne

Denman, a sophomore, transferred in from Florida, and he'll be ready to go, and Drake Duncan, a freshman from Bowling Green, KY, has looked good as well. Both will make the trip to The Farm this weekend."

The Blue Raiders have five others who played in at least five events last season, headed by junior sensation Brett Patterson, who had a 73.5 stroke average last season, and became the first Middle Tennessee player to win a spot in the U.S. Open. He will be joined by juniors Paul Sansom, Lucas Armstrong, and Jordan Jennings, along with red-shirt sophomore Andrew Cho. All have played at least 14 rounds in tournament action.

Turnbow has indicated that he will go with Patterson, Jennings, Cho, Denman, and Duncan at The Farm, two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

"But we are a team with quality depth, with guys like Lucas Armstrong, David Parlane, and Sam Thompson ready to step in. As with any team at this level the key is the fourth, fifth, and six places. If you have depth in those spots, that means that most of the time, you have the luxury of not having to count a higher score."

Blue Raider golf fans may follow the team on GolfStat.com for live scoring and

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