Raiders tied for 8th at Carpet Capital

Denman leads way in first tourney

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DALTON, Ga. - Middle Tennessee opened its 2012 fall campaign with a 292 in the first round of the Carpet Capital Intercollegiate played at The Farm Club (par 72, 6,906 yards). The Blue Raiders are tied for eighth in the elite field that includes seven of the nation's pre-season top 25 teams, including No. 1 Alabama, No. 2 Texas, No. 6 Auburn, No. 15 North Florida, No. 19 Georgia and No. 24 Clemson.

Georgia shot a 10-under par 278 to grab the early lead over conference foe Alabama. LSU is in third followed by Wake Forest and Auburn.

The Blue Raiders are tied with Chattanooga and Clemson and stand just one stroke behind North Carolina and North Florida. MT is currently ahead of Texas, Kennesaw State, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia Tech.

"Not a bad start to the year," said Head Coach Whit Turnbow. "Lots of positives surrounding this group. We are looking forward to tomorrow and finding out a little more about the identity of this team."

Newcomer Payne Denman (Riverwatch, TN) led the Blue Raiders with a 2-under par 70. Denman, who had six birdies on the day, was seeing his first collegiate action after sitting out last year from transferring from Florida. Denman is tied for eighth.

Junior Brett Patterson, battling a sore elbow, carded a 73 and is tied for 33rd. Patterson had 17 pars and a bogey on his round.

Andrew Cho also registered a 73 as the sophomore tallied four birdies, including two on the par threes.

Junior Jordan Jennings is tied for 50th after a 76, while true freshman Drake Duncan fired a 78 in his first collegiate round.

The Blue Raiders will play round two of the 54-hole event beginning Saturday morning at 9 AM.

TEAM SCORES

1 Georgia 278 278
2 Alabama 284 284
3 LSU 286 286
4 Wake Forest 288 288
5 Auburn 289 289
T6 North Florida 291 291
T6 North Carolina 291 291
T8 Chattanooga 292 292
T8 Middle Tennessee 292 292
T8 Clemson 292 292
T11 Texas 293 293
T11 Kennesaw State 293 293
13 South Carolina 296 296
14 Tennessee 299 299
15 Georgia Tech 301 301

MT SCORES

T8 Payne Denman (4) 70 70
T33 Brett Patterson (1) 73 73
T33 Andrew Cho (2) 73 73
T50 Jordan Jennings (3) 76 76
T63 Drake Duncan (5) 78 78

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