Women's golf geared up to host Blue Raider Invitational

Tournament will be held Monday and Tuesday at Old Fort

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee women's golf team concludes fall action this week when it hosts the Blue Raider Invitational at Old Fort Golf Club. The field of 18 teams will tee off Monday for 36 holes on the par-72, 6,177-yard course, then conclude the tournament with the final 18 Tuesday.

"Anytime you host a tournament, I think it's to your advantage obviously because it's on a golf course you play every day," head coach Chris Adams said. "Old Fort is in great shape and the girls know (the course). We know the greens and know the breaks. That usually gives two or three stroke a round advantage."

Along with the Blue Raiders, Austin Peay, Belmont, Jacksonville State, Lamar, UMKC, Morehead State, Murray State, Northern Iowa, Oral Roberts, South Alabama, Southern Illinois, Southern Miss, Tennessee Tech, UALR, UTEP, Troy and WKU comprise the field.

Last year, MT won the inaugural Blue Raider Invitational with back-to-back rounds of 293 to post an 886 (+22), the second-best three-round total in program history. The Blue Raiders defeated second-place Lamar by 14 strokes. Former Blue Raider Karisa Akin led the way, taking home medalist honors, while current senior Olivia Love was the top finisher of those returning this season in a tie for fifth.

"The monkey is on our back," Adams said. "When you're hosting, you're supposed to win. Our expectations going in are nothing less than first, and the girls know that."

MT is coming off a 17th place finish at the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic last week in Norman, Okla. The Blue Raiders carded their second-best three-round total of the fall with a 931 in their toughest field of the season, with eight teams in the top 50 nationally, including three ranked in the top 30. MT

has boasted two top-10 finishes this season with a second-place finish at the Chris Banister Classic in the fall opener and a sixth-place finish at the Marilynn Smith Sunflower Invitational Sept. 24-25.

Ashley Haggard has paced the Blue Raiders throughout the fall with a 76.08 stroke average. Her best outing came at the Chris Banister Classic where she recorded a season-low 70 in the opening round before going on to finish tied for fourth with a 221.

There will be an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start each day. Although live scoring is not available for the tournament, scores will be updated following each round on golfstat.com and GoBlueRaiders.com will have a recap at the end of each day.

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