



# SoCon Men's Golf



905 E. Main St., Suite 6; Spartanburg, SC 29302 • 864-591-5100 • Fax-864-591-3448

SoCon Public Affairs-Steve Shutt, *Associate Commissioner* •

Mandi Copeland, *Assistant Director* • **Jonathan Caskey**, *Public Affairs Assistant* ([jcaskey@socon.org](mailto:jcaskey@socon.org));

Andrew Christopherson, *External Affairs Assistant*

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Contact: Jonathan Caskey, Public Affairs Assistant (864) 591-5100

## **Furman Takes First Round Lead at SoCon Men's Golf Championships**

JONESBOROUGH, TN -- The Furman Paladins posted a team score of three-under-par 285 to assume the lead after first-round play in the 68th Southern Conference Men's Golf Championships Sunday at the Ridges Golf and Country Club.

The Paladins hold a decisive nine-stroke lead over surprising Appalachian State, which finished last season's tournament in 10th place and posted a score 12 strokes better than their season average at 294. Along with Furman and Appalachian State, Davidson and Georgia Southern are tied for third at 297, while Chattanooga rounds out the top five at 298.

"Our guys were very confident coming in here and I think that showed today," said Furman head coach Todd Satterfield, whose team won two of its final three regular season tournaments before coming to the championship. "As a team, you like to be peaking at this time of the year and I think the success we've had in recent weeks has been a big help."

Furman got a significant boost from redshirt sophomore Shane Birckbichler and senior Matt Davidson, who finished first and second, respectively, on the individual leaderboard. Birckbichler fired a career-best, 3-under-par 69 and Davidson finished at 2-under on the day.

"This was the best round I've shot in college so far," said Birckbichler. "I just didn't get ahead of my self and stayed confident. Those birdies on 10, 11 and 12 were big."

Appalachian State's Matt Riddick is also tied in second place at 2-under, while Davidson's Christian Davis, Georgia Southern's Bryan Jones, UNC Greensboro's Andy Bare and East Tennessee State's Rhys Davies are all tied for fourth at 1-under.

Satterfield said the Paladins, who are second only to ETSU in SoCon titles with 11 all-time, understand Monday's second round is critically important.

"The lead doesn't matter until Tuesday when everything's done and over with," said Satterfield. "But tomorrow is a big day for us to stay in there and have a chance to win."

Second round play will begin Monday, while final round play is scheduled for Tuesday. Admission is free to the public and teams will tee off at approximately 8 a.m.

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Southern Conference Champion.  
 The Ridges Golf and CC Jonesborough, TN  
 Dates: 04/18 - 04/20 (Today:04-18-2004)  
 Par: 72  
 Yardage: 7147

Fin.	Top 20 Teams	Scores
1	Furman University	285
2	Appalachian State U.	294
3	Georgia Southern U.	297
	Davidson College	297
5	Tenn.-Chattanooga	298
6	N. Car.- Greensboro	299
7	Charleston, Coll. of	300
	Wofford College	300
9	East Tennessee St.	303
10	Elon University	306
11	Western Carolina U.	307
12	Citadel, The	309

Fin.	Top 20 Players	School	Scores
1	Shane Birckbichler	Furman	36- 33 69
2	Matt Davidson	Furman	36- 34 70
	Matt Riddick	Appal. St.	34- 36 70
4	Rhys Davies	E Tenn. St	35- 36 71
	Andy Bare	NC Greensb	34- 37 71
	Christian Davis	Davidson	37- 34 71
	Bryan Jones	Ga. South	35- 36 71
8	Rob Langley	Furman	35- 37 72
9	Aron Price	Ga. South	39- 34 73
	John Assey	Charleston	35- 38 73
	Thomas Smith	Chattanooga	38- 35 73
	Adam Dox	Wofford	36- 37 73
	Robert Quick	Appal. St.	35- 38 73
14	David Thomas	Appal. St.	39- 35 74
	Steve Mayo	Davidson	39- 35 74
	Matt Brock	Chattanooga	40- 34 74
	Tim Dillon	Davidson	38- 36 74
	Jake Lowder	NC Greensb	38- 36 74
	Van Burgess	Wofford	34- 40 74
	T.J. Blandford	Furman	37- 37 74
	Mitchell Brock	Chattanooga	37- 37 74

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Fin.	School	Scores	
1	Furman University	285	
1	Shane Birckbichler	36- 33	69
T 2	Matt Davidson	36- 34	70
8	Rob Langley	35- 37	72
T 14	T.J. Blandford	37- 37	74
T 43	Buddy Davis	39- 39	78
2	Appalachian State U.	294	
T 2	Matt Riddick	34- 36	70
T 9	Robert Quick	35- 38	73
T 14	David Thomas	39- 35	74
T 33	Chris Jarman	36- 41	77
T 55	Brady Eckard	39- 41	80
T 3	Georgia Southern U.	297	
T 4	Bryan Jones	35- 36	71
T 9	Aron Price	39- 34	73
T 27	Drew Bowen	40- 36	76
T 33	Kurt Watkins	38- 39	77
T 43	Jon David Kennedy	40- 38	78
T 3	Davidson College	297	
T 4	Christian Davis	37- 34	71
T 14	Steve Mayo	39- 35	74
T 14	Tim Dillon	38- 36	74
T 43	Peyton Gallagher	37- 41	78
T 57	Alex Knoll	41- 41	82
5	Tenn.-Chattanooga	298	
T 9	Thomas Smith	38- 35	73
T 14	Matt Brock	40- 34	74
T 14	Mitchell Brock	37- 37	74
T 33	Bryce Ledford	37- 40	77
T 43	Stephen Fritsch	40- 38	78
6	N. Car.- Greensboro	299	
T 4	Andy Bare	34- 37	71
T 14	Jake Lowder	38- 36	74
T 22	Bradley Leeper	36- 39	75
T 51	Nick Baker	37- 42	79
T 51	J.D. Bass	44- 35	79

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Fin.	School	Scores
T 7	Charleston, Coll. of	300
T 9	John Assey	35- 38 73
T 22	Kellen Altman	40- 35 75
T 27	Rand Williams	38- 38 76
T 27	Tim Ferguson	35- 41 76
T 33	Dustin Barr	36- 41 77
T 7	Wofford College	300
T 9	Adam Dox	36- 37 73
T 14	Van Burgess	34- 40 74
T 22	Jon Stephenson	36- 39 75
T 43	J.P. Chamberlin	42- 36 78
T 55	Daniel Sloan	40- 40 80
9	East Tennessee St.	303
T 4	Rhys Davies	35- 36 71
T 33	Andrew Paduch	38- 39 77
T 33	Cennydd Mills	39- 38 77
T 43	Jeremy Hobson	41- 37 78
T 43	Chase Baldwin	42- 36 78
10	Elon University	306
T 22	James Hockman	39- 36 75
T 27	Keith Orlen	39- 37 76
T 33	J.D. McNeill	39- 38 77
T 43	Ryan Loucks	40- 38 78
60	Bennett Smith	45- 45 90
11	Western Carolina U.	307
T 22	Donald(Tripp) Morrow	38- 37 75
T 27	Blake Wray	41- 35 76
T 33	Keith Tyburski	37- 40 77
T 51	Chase Kress	42- 37 79
T 57	Tim Eckberg	42- 40 82
12	Citadel, The	309
T 27	Jeff Spencer	37- 39 76
T 33	Matt Frye	39- 38 77
T 33	Douglas McMillan III	39- 38 77
T 51	Angelo Medico	41- 38 79
59	Lawrence Caudle III	44- 40 84

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