Gombert, Carufe Pace Blue Raiders at UTC

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Marjorie Gombert and Tony Carufe were the top finishers, leading the cross country teams at Friday's UTC Opener in Chattanooga, Tenn. Gombert, a junior, posted an 18-place finish on the two-mile Moccasin Bend Course, finishing in a time of 12:41. Senior Sara Lunning was just 11 seconds behind in 26th position, while freshman Sangau Zamzam placed 31st in 13:17 and sophomore Tiffany Sawyer finished 32nd in 13:32. Sophomores Ashleigh Thaler and Catherine Chester posted times of 13:51 and 14:17, respectively, for 34th and 37th place, as the women finished fifth in the team standings. On the men's side, junior Carufe was the top finisher for the second straight week, placing 36th on the 5K course with a time of 17:03. Freshman Phillip Benevides was 39th in 17:20, with junior Matt Young 43rd in 17:49 and sophomore Ryan Hood 45th in 18:09. Sophomore Luke Pfleger placed 46th in 18:44, and freshman Chris Travis was 47th in 18:50. "Marjorie ran very well and Zamzam is getting better every week," assistant coach Keith Vroman said. "The women ran very well overall. "Carufe was 30 seconds faster at this race than he was last year, so that's a good sign. Our guys just have to keep working to improve their times with each race." Middle Tennessee next runs on Saturday, September 16, in the WKU Old Timers Classic in Bowling Green, Ky., at the Kereaikes Park course.

UTC Opener

MEN - 5K (7th)

36. Tony Carufe, 17:03
39. Phillip Benevides, 17:20
43. Matt Young, 17:49
45. Ryan Hood, 18:09
46. Luke Pfleger, 18:44

47. Chris Travis, 18:50

WOMEN - 2 miles (5th)

18. Marjorie Gombert, 12:41
26. Sara Lunning, 12:52
31. Sangau Zamzam, 13:17
32. Tiffany Sawyer, 13:32
34. Ashleigh Thaler, 13:51
37. Catherine Chester, 14:17

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