Track Wins Seven Events at Valentine Invitational

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee track squad won seven events Saturday at the Valentine Invitational at Murphy Center, including Mardy Scales running his fastest time of the season in the 55-meters and newcomers James Thomas and Laetitia Florimond picking up victories in field events. Thomas, a freshman from Knoxville, Tenn., won the weight throw with a mark of 51-2.5, just an inch-and-a-half from his personal best set three weeks ago at the Blue Raider Invitational. Teammate and sophomore Willie Parker finished seventh in the event with a mark of 42-11. Parker had a better day in the shot put, placing second with a mark of 48-7.5, while Thomas was sixth in the event with a mark of 42-4.5. Also in the field events for the Blue Raiders, sophomore Greg Jones was second in the triple jump with a mark of 48-5.75, finishing behind Blue Raider graduate assistant Andrew Owusu (52-3.25). Newcomer Clyde Gibson and sophomore Sean Waller tied for sixth in the long jump, each with a mark of 22-6. In the high jump, freshman Brian Anderson was fourth, clearing 6-0. For the Lady Raiders, Florimond won the shot put with a season-best of 45-3.5, with Meaghan Byrd tying for third (40-1) and Kelly Enoch finishing fifth with a season-best 39-9.5. Byrd set a personal-best in the weight throw with a mark of 46-5.5, while senior Katie Mirgliotta was fourth (44-11) in the event. Junior KeKe Deckard came in second in the triple jump with a mark of 39-6.25 and placed fourth in the long jump with a mark of 17-8.25. Freshman Jennifer Thomas tied for fourth in the high jump, clearing 4-10. In the sprints, Scales ran his fastest time of the year in

an NCAA provisional time of 55-meters, 6.21, to edge former Blue Raider DJ Spann (6.30) and senior Xavier Darden (6.31 - season-best) in the finals. Junior Wesley Dupar-Scott was sixth in the event in a time of 6.43. Darden won the 200-meters in a season-best 21.38, ahead of former Blue Raider Brad Orr in third (21.72) and Dupar-Scott in fourth with a season-best 21.87. Sophomore Sean Waller placed seventh in the event in a time of 22.07. Sophomore Linnie Yarbrough and senior Garland Martin battled it out in the 55-meter hurdles, with Yarbrough winning by one-hundredth of a second in 7.30. Both times were NCAA provisional marks. Sophomore Zack Wood placed seventh in the 3000-meters in 9:36.53. For the Lady Raiders, freshman Tiffany Owens won the 55-meters in 7.14, with Kishara George in fourth in 7.24. Another freshman, Nicole Marcus, edged teammates George and Kerry Barrow in the 200-meters. All three ran season-bests in 24.42, 24.65 and 24.92, respectively. In the 55-meter hurdles, Candice Robertson placed fifth (8.27) and Jerkita McClorin was sixth (8.58). Both squads will next compete in the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships, February 28-29, at Murphy Center. Middle Tennessee will host a Track & Field reunion on Saturday at 6 p.m. during the championships. For more information contact Jim Simpson at 615/898-5632 or look for the information form at goblueraiders.com.

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