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Two Middle Tennessee Relay Teams Qualify For NCAA Regionals

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - It should come as no surprise two of Middle Tennessee's relay teams qualified for the NCAA Regionals at the Alabama Relays at the University of Alabama Sunday.

The Blue Raiders, after all, expect nothing less, but they wasted no time in assuring their spot in the NCAA Regionals with record-setting performances in the first weekend of the Outdoor Track and Field season.

Middle Tennessee's 4 X 400 relay team punched its ticket for the NCAA Regional by turning in a school record time of 3:06.40, besting the previous record of 3:06.48 turned in last year. The sizzling time produced by the team of Xavier Darden, Mardy Scales, Tim Hicks and Sean Waller edged Mississippi State for the win.

The quartet of Darden, Scales, Wesley Dupar-Scott and Waller also earned a reservation in the Outdoor NCAA Regionals in the 4 X 100 relays with a time of 40.32, the best time of any collegiate relay team in the field. The qualifying time for the NCAA Regional is 40.66.

"We ran time-wise about what you expect," Middle Tennessee coach Dean Hayes said. "We expect our sprint relays to do well for us, and they did. They ran about what we expect and then it's really just a matter of if it's good enough that day."

The men's 4 X 200 relay team of Darden, Scales, Dupar-Scott and Waller was first with a time of 1:23.11, while the men's 1600 sprint medley relay team of Hicks, Garland Martin, Yarbrough and Tony Carufe was No. 6 among college entries with a time of 3:34.26.

Greg Jones finished fourth in the triple jump with an effort of 48-08.75.

Middle Tennessee also had a strong showing with its women's team as Laetitia Florimond set a school record in the javelin throw with a distance of 131-05. Florimond was second overall and tops among collegiate performers Sunday.

The Lady Raiders 4 X 100 relay of Kerry Barrow, Kishara George, Nicole Marcus and Tiffany Owens was the top collegiate team with a time of 45.92, while the 4 X 400 squad of Barrow, Contrena Brown, Owens and George was third with a time of 3:45.88.

Middle Tennessee's 4 X 200 team, comprised of Barrow, George, Marcus and Brown was the fifth-best college entry with a time of 1:39.37. Rolanda Howard (37-11.50) and Keke Deckard (37-01.25) were third and seventh, respectively, in the triple jump.

Middle Tennessee's men and women will compete in the Mississippi State Invitational in Starkville, Miss., next weekend.

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