

4 X 200 Team Second At Texas Relays; George Sets Mark In Atlanta

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

The Middle Tennessee men's 4 X 200 relay team finished second at the prestigious Texas Relays in Austin, Texas, Saturday, while Lady Raider Kishara George turned in a school-record performance in the 400 hurdles at the Yellowjacket Invitational in Atlanta.

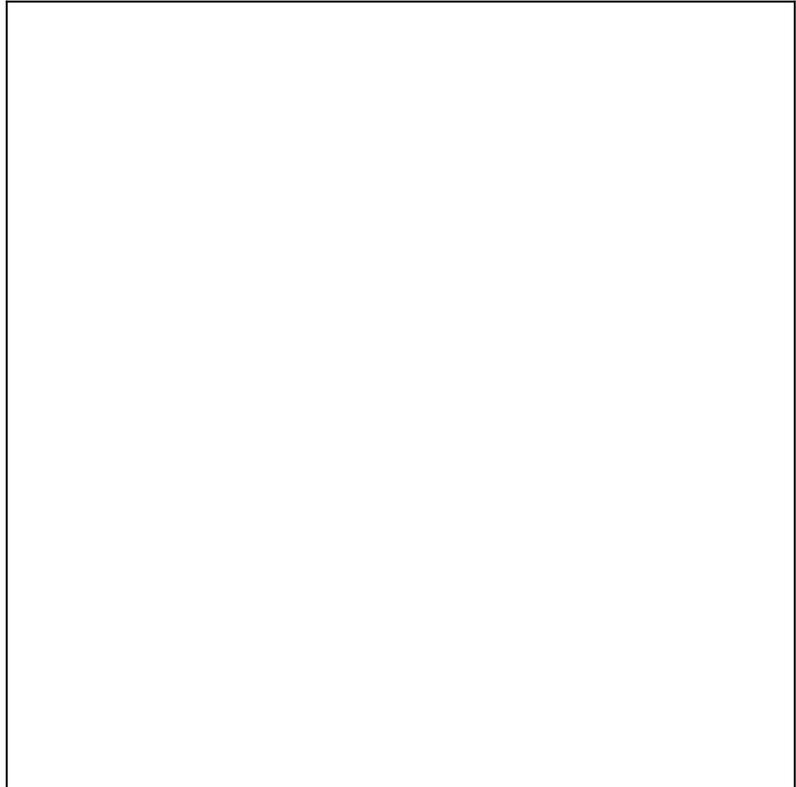
Two Blue Raider relays teams earned invitations to participate in the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays and enjoyed strong showings. The 4 X 200 team of Sean Waller, Xavier Darden, Tim Hicks and Mardy Scales finished second with a 1:23.35. Mississippi State won the event with a time of 1:22.95.

Middle Tennessee's 4 X 400 relay team, consisting of the same quartet but in a different running order, finished seventh overall with a time of 3:07.01. Darden led off, followed by Scales, Hicks, and Waller was the anchor.

"We had a good showing in the 4 X 200 and anytime you can finish in the top three in the Texas Relays, it's encouraging," assistant coach Roger Kerr said. "We did not run as well as we would have liked in the 4 X 400, though. We got off to a tough start and were forced to play catch-up. It's disappointing because we hoped to run faster."

While the quartet comprising a pair of relay teams were in Texas, the rest of the Middle Tennessee track team was competing at the Yellowjacket Invitational.

George broke her own school record in the 400 hurdles with a time of 59.23, which is also a NCAA Regional standard. The previous record was 59.57. The Lady Raiders 4 X 400 relay of Kerry Barron, Contrena Brown, George and Rosemary Okafor turned in a fourth-place finish with a NCAA regional qualifying time of 3:42.96.



"We did some good things today, and the field was tough," coach Dean Hayes said. "There were several strong performances in a lot of different events on both the men's and women's side."

Garland Martin continued his strong spring with a second-place finish in the 110 hurdles with a 14.05 mark, while Linnie Yarbrough was fourth (14.12). Both marks were NCAA Regional standards. Martin was sixth (53.89) in the 400 hurdles, and Yarbrough was 11th (55.99). Wesley Dupar-Scott was eighth in the 100 with a time of 10.73.

Greg Jones turned in a third-place finish in the triple jump (47-09.0), while J.J. Sturm was eighth (45-03.0). Sturm was fifth in the long jump with a mark of 23-10.25.

Willie Parker didn't place in the top eight, but he did break the school record in the hammer throw with an effort of 139-05, besting teammate James Thomas' 139-0. Middle Tennessee also received contributions from its distance runners as Zack Wood was fifth in the 3000-meter steeplechase (9:57.84), and TarikThabet was fifth in the 3000-meter (9:21.90).

On the women's side, KeKe Deckard was fourth in the long jump (18-10.00). Lady Raider Roland Howard was eighth in the triple jump. No other Lady Raider finished higher than ninth in an event in the loaded Yellowjacket Invitational Field.

Lady Raiders Tiffany Owens (11.89), Karina Francis (12.05), and Nicole Marcus (12.06) also were in the top 15 in the 100-meter, finishing 10th, 14th, and 15th, respectively. Francis' time was a personal best. Owens set a new personal best in the 200-meter with a time of 24.45.

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