Raiders Win Four Events at Troy

Squad prepares for upcoming SBC Championships

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Freshmen Kortney Thurman and Festus Chemaoi, sophomore William Songock and junior Brandon Jones all won events on Saturday, leading Middle Tennessee's track teams at the Coach O Invitational in Troy, Ala., the final tuneup before the conference championships in two weeks. Thurman posted a personal-best 19-6.25 in winning the long jump, just short of an NCAA regional qualifying mark and the fourth best mark in the Sun Belt this season. She also placed fourth in the 100-meters in a season-best 12.15. Chemaoi won the 1500-meters in a season-best 3:56.34 and placed second in the 800-meters in a personal-best 1:54.72. Songock was first in the 3000-meters in 8:35.13, while Jones won the triple jump with a season-best mark of 47-6.5. Elsewhere for the Blue Raider women, senior Antranette Stringer placed third in the 200-meters in 24.70 and junior Tenesha Hill was seventh in the 100 in 12.47. Sophomore Zamzam Sangau finished second in the 800 in 2:10.40, the second best time in the Sun Belt this season, and senior Marjorie Gombert was third in 2:14.49. Junior Kaitlyn Hammond placed seventh in the 1500 in a season-best 5:00.21 and freshman Marla Bailey was third in the 3000 in 10:48.55. Sophomore Brittany Cox improved her NCAA regional qualifying mark in the shot put, finishing second with a mark of 49-0.25, while sophomore MeLyn Thompson fell just short of the NCAA mark for the third time this season, placing third with a mark of 46-9. Cox and Thompson finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the discus throw with marks of 135-6 and 132-8, while Cox was second in the hammer throw with a mark of 164-2. Junior Maite Cortin placed third in the event with a mark of 155-8 and Thompson was eighth with a season-best mark of 138-4. For the Middle Tennessee men, freshman David Emery placed fifth in the 800 in a season-best 1:56.16, while freshman Isaac Biwott was second in the 1500 in a season-best 3:59.24. Sophomore Julius Kirui finished fourth in the 3000 in 8:49.36. In the 110-meter hurdles, sophomore

DeRay Sloss placed second in 14.39, sophomore Freddie Rankin was sixth in 15.35 and junior Frederick Middlebrooks finished eighth in a season-best 15.67. Rankin also placed fourth in the 400-meter hurdles in 54.01. The men's 4x100-meter relay finished fourth in 42.76. In the field events, Sloss placed third in the long jump with a mark of 23-0, while Middlebrooks was fourth in the triple jump with a season-best mark of 44-2.75. Both the men's and women's teams will now prepare for the Sun Belt Championships, set for May 7-9 at Fouts Field in Denton, Texas. The SBC Outdoor Championships were last held at North Texas in 2003 and 2004. The Blue Raider men placed second in 2003 and third in 2004, while the women were fifth the first year and third in the second year.

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