

Eight regional qualifying efforts highlight Blue Raider track and field Saturday

Four school records also broken at Auburn-hosted meet

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AUBURN, Ala. - The Middle Tennessee men's and women's track and field teams combined for eight regional qualifying times or marks Saturday as they competed at the Tiger Track Classic hosted by Auburn in Auburn, Ala. In addition, the Blue Raiders established four new school records on the day which was contested in beautiful weather against some of the top competition from around the Southeast.

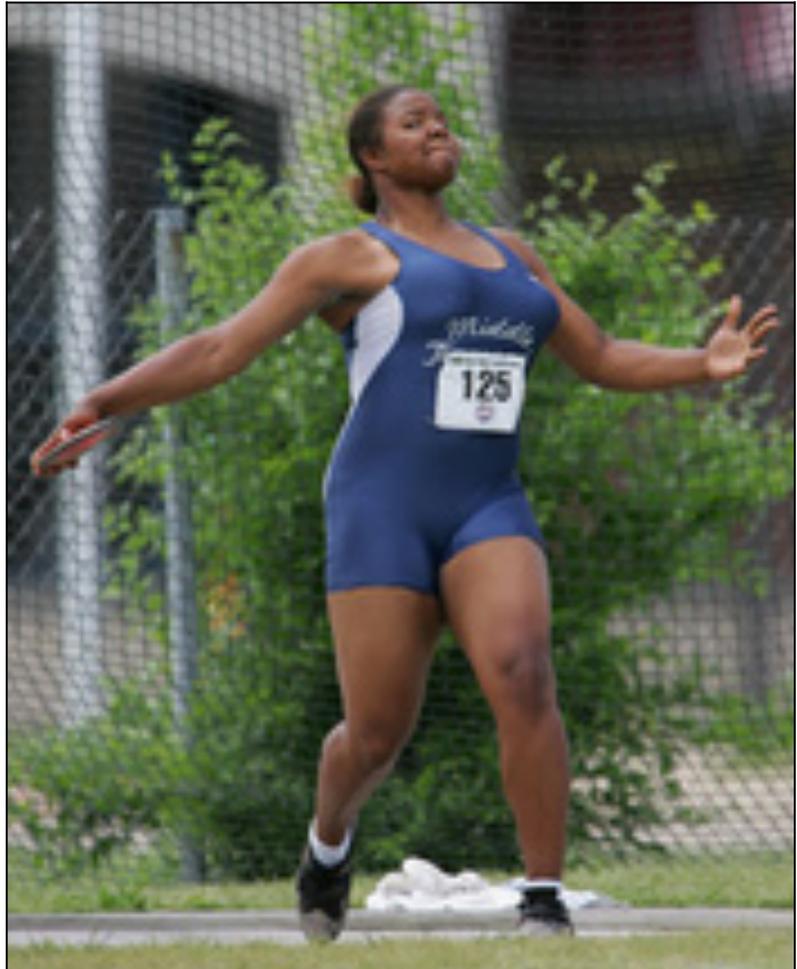
"Overall, it was a good day for us with the weather cooperating," head coach Dean Hayes said. "We went into this meet to focus on the individual events and we did really well."

Brittany Cox continued her torrid start to the outdoor campaign by advancing to the NCAA regional meet in two events and setting two school records. She won the shot put with a school-record toss of 52 feet, 1.75 inches (15.89m) to qualify for the regionals. Her other regional-qualifying distance came in the discus, where her mark of 156-11 (47.83m) placed fourth.

Cox broke her own school record for the second-straight meet in the hammer, garnering a fourth-place result with a heave of 170-5 (51.94m).

Sarah Nambawa joined her with a field event championship of her own with the winning leap of 43-7.25 (13.29m) in the triple jump. The mark advances her to the regional meet.

Nambawa was edged by teammate Kortney Thurman in the long jump, as Thurman placed second with a leap of 19-9.5 (6.03m) to also qualify for the NCAA regionals. Nambawa trailed in third by just



over three inches.

On the track, Zamzam Sangau received a pair of NCAA regional-qualifying times while setting program standards in the 800 meters and 1500m. She finished 1st (2:09.17) and 2nd (4:27.11) in the two events, respectively, to highlight the Middle Tennessee efforts.

Festus Chemaoui captured an event win for the Blue Raider men with his regional-qualifying time of 3:46.28 in the 1500.

Chemaoui, who brought home a second top-five finish with a third-place result in the 800, was joined by Carl Morgan as MT men's competitors advancing to the NCAA regionals. Morgan won the long jump with a distance of 24-6.25 (7.47m).

Greg Franklin just missed regional times in the 100 and 200, placing fourth and fifth respectively in the sprints.

William Songcock also had a top-five time for the Blue Raiders, placing fifth in the 3000.

The 4x100 relay team of Franklin, Curtis King, Roscoe Payne and Samuel Adade came in third.

Middle Tennessee will continue its outdoor season next weekend by splitting its squads among the Sea-Ray Relays in Knoxville, Tenn., and the Boston-Moon Invitational in Nashville, Tenn.

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