

Two regional qualifying marks lead Blue Raiders

Nambawa, Cox each earn spot in NCAA Regionals

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Sarah Nambawa garnered her second regional qualifying mark in the last two weeks in the triple jump, while Brittany Cox also earned a spot in the May meet to lead the Middle Tennessee track & field teams Friday and Saturday at the Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville, Tenn. The weekend meet was contested amongst thunderstorms Friday evening and was concluded with better conditions Saturday.

Nambawa placed second overall in her primary event with a leap of 42-0 (12.80m) to earn her spot at the regionals. She was one of four women to qualify in the event and finished just three inches (.08m) behind the winner, Jeomi Maduka of Cornell. Nambawa also participated in the long jump, coming in fifth among 30 competitors with a leap of 19-4 (5.91m).



Cox's toss of 49-9.75 (15.18m) placed her fourth among 33 competitors in an event won by Tennessee's Annie Alexander. Cox was one of seven women to earn a regional-qualifying mark in the shot put and just missed out on another with a fourth-place result after heaving the discus 152-5 (46.46m).

Nambawa then joined her teammates on the track for a pair of top-four finishes in two relay races. In the 4x200 meter relay, Tenesha Hill, TraMayne Gillyard, Nyeisha Wright and Nambawa came in second with a time of 1:38.77, just under a second behind winner Connecticut.

Three of the same women (Hill, Wright and Nambawa) competed in the 4x100 with Kortney Thurman completing the final leg as the quartet finished fourth in 46.34, just under four-tenths of a second off the pace of winner Tennessee.

William Songcock recorded the top individual finish for the Blue Raider men's team with his fifth-place time of 31:14.24 in the 10,000 meters.

Roscoe Payne also had a strong showing for the MT men on the track with a seventh-place time of 14.49 in the 110m hurdles out of 31 runners to register a personal best.

The men's 4x1500 meter relay consisting of David Emery, Issac Biwott, Julius Kirui and Festus Chemaoui earned a sixth-place time of 16:23.43.

The Middle Tennessee track & field teams also competed at the Boston-Moon Classic in Nashville, Tenn., Saturday in a meet hosted by Tennessee State. Results were not available late Saturday evening.

The Blue Raiders will return to action Friday and Saturday at the Georgia Invitational, an event hosted by UGA in Athens, Ga.

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