Middle Tennessee to travel to Penn Relays

Eleven athletes will compete at 115th annual Penn Relays

April 22, 2009 · Christian Lemon

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - A group of Middle Tennessee's top track athletes will travel to Philadelphia, Pa., this week to compete in the 115th annual Penn Relays.

The Penn Relays is the nation's largest and oldest current track and field meet. Athletes ranging in age from young teen to adult from all parts of the world will gather for over 300 events during the span of five days.

Curtis King, Greg Franklin, Stanley Gbagbeke and Roscoe Payne will compete in the 4x100 and 4x200 meter relays for Middle Tennessee. Gbagbeke is also entered in the long jump competition with teammate Carl Morgan, who will compete in both the long and triple jumps. Distance runner Festus Chemaoi will run the 5000 meters.

Last weekend at the War Eagle Invitational in Auburn, Ala., the Middle Tennessee 4x100 meter relay team earned its first NCAA Midwest Regional qualifying time of 40.22. Morgan also earned his first NCAA Regional marks this season in the long and triple jump. His distances of 25-1.75 in the long jump and 50-6 in the triple jump are the top marks in the Sun Belt Conference this season.

Chemaoi earned an NCAA qualifying time of 1:49.48 in the 800 meters to set a new Middle Tennessee record in the event.

Kortney Thurman, Tenesha Hill, Sarah Nambawa and Nyeisha Wright will run the 4x100 meter relay for the Blue Raider women. Thurman, Nambawa and Wright will join TraMayne Gillyard in the 4x200 meter relay. The women may also compete in the 4x400 meter relay, depending on their 4x100 meter results.

Nambawa and Thurman will participate in the long jump, and Nambawa will also see action in the triple jump. Both field event athletes earned NCAA Regional marks this season at the Tiger Track Classic.

The Blue Raiders have had success at prior Penn Relays. Fifteen years ago, in 1994, the Middle Tennessee men's 4x200 meter relay placed first.

Full meet results will be available at thepennrelays.com and daily coverage will be available at goblueraiders.com.

Middle Tennessee's Schedule of Events *(EST)*

Thursday
Women's Long Jump - 12:00 PM
Women's 4x100 meter Relay Preliminary - 1:00 PM
Women's 4x400 meter Relay Preliminary - 5:50 PM
Men's 5000 meters - 9:20

Friday
Women's Triple Jump - 11:00 AM
Men's 4x100 meter Relay Preliminary - 12:35 PM
Women's 4x100 meter Relay Final - 1:15 PM
Men's 4x200 meter Relay Preliminary - 1:50 PM
Women's 4x200 meter Relay Preliminary - 2:10 PM
Men's Long Jump - 3:30 PM

Saturday
Men's Triple Jump - 9:00 AM
Men's 4x100 meter Relay Final - 1:20 PM
Women's 4x200 meter Relay Final - 2:35 PM
Men's 4x200 meter Relay Final - 2:35 PM
Women's 4x400 meter Relay Final - 5:30 PM

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