

May 10, 2009

Nambawa's record leap, Morgan's first-place finish pace Blue Raiders during final day

Blue Raider men place second, women earn third

Athletic Communications

Final Men's Results

Final Women's Results

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The final day of the Sun Belt Outdoor Track & Field Championships concluded Sunday with Western Kentucky claiming both the men's and women's titles, with the host Middle Tennessee squads claiming second (men) and third (women) in the final team standings.

The Blue Raiders made a push for points during the afternoon's triple jump events. Junior Sarah Nambawa had perhaps the best performance of any competitor on the day when she leapt to a mark of 44-11.75 (13.71m) to pass Florida State's Kimberly Williams as the top distance on the NCAA performance list this season. The distance, easily a personal best, moved her up from the eighth spot nationally and set a Sun Belt Championships, overall Sun Belt and Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium record along the way. It also places her 21st on the IAAF's chart for 2009 performances.

MT completed the triple jump sweep of new Hayes Stadium standards when senior Carl Morgan registered a 52-4.5 (15.96m) mark on his second jump to move from 38th to 15th in the NCAA this season. Morgan's best leap held-off the competition, despite him only tallying one recorded distance in the finals. His fifth overall jump, second of the finals, was a foul before he passed on his final attempt when it was not necessary.

Other first-place winners for Middle Tennessee included Roscoe Payne (men's 400m hurdles, 51.41), Festus Chemaoui (men's 800m, 1:51.66), Zamzam Sangau (women's 800m, 2:10.31) and the women's 4x400m relay team (3:46.28) who came in three one-hundredths of a second in front of runner-up Florida Atlantic.

A number of Blue Raiders collected second-place results, including Payne in the 110m hurdles with a time of 14.09, just three one-hundredths of a second off the pace set by Troy's Leander McKenzie. Middle Tennessee's men's 4x100m relay tied for second with North Texas, as the pair of schools clocked in two one-hundredths of a second behind WKU.

Western Kentucky's Gavin Smellie blitzed the field in the 100m, winning in 10.32 to rank 16th on the NCAA list. South Alabama's Zac Edwards ran away from the pack in the 5000, setting a championship record with a time of 14:14.33, exactly six seconds ahead of MT's William Songock.

Numerous other NCAA Regional qualifiers, as well as championship and stadium records fell throughout the day as the teams concluded the three-day event.

For the Blue Raiders, competition will continue Friday-Saturday at the Georgia Tech Invitational, a Last Chance meet, in Atlanta.

Men's Outstanding Track Performer:

Gavin Smellie, Western Kentucky

Men's Outstanding Field Co-Performers:

Carl Morgan, Middle Tennessee



Sarah Nambawa placed third in the NCAA triple jump with a leap of 45-3 (13.79m) at the NCAA Outdoor Championships garnering All-American honors. (Bradley Lambert)

Mandhla Mggimima, Western Kentucky

Men's Outstanding Co-Freshmen:

Roscoe Payne, Middle Tennessee

Kythe Talley, North Texas

Men's Top Meet Scorer:

Gavin Smellie, Western Kentucky - 25 points

Men's Coach of the Year:

Erik Jenkins, Western Kentucky

Women's Outstanding Track Performer:

Zamzam Sangau, Middle Tennessee

Women's Outstanding Field Performer:

Sarah Nambawa, Middle Tennessee

Women's Outstanding Freshman:

Charmisha Morrow, Arkansas State

Women's Top Meet Co-Scorers:

Zamzam Sangau, Middle Tennessee - 26 points

Tiphonie Baker, Troy - 26 points

Paola Reategui, Florida International - 26 points

Women's Co-Coaches of the Year:

Erik Jenkins, Western Kentucky

Eric Campbell, Florida International

Men's Team Standings:

1. Western Kentucky, 161
2. Middle Tennessee, 130
3. Louisiana-Monroe, 121
4. North Texas, 91.50
5. UALR, 74
6. Arkansas State, 72.50
7. Troy, 65
8. South Alabama, 48
9. Louisiana-Lafayette, 35
10. Florida International, 21

Women's Team Standings:

1. Western Kentucky, 153
2. Florida International, 115.60
3. Middle Tennessee, 108.60
4. North Texas, 97
5. Louisiana-Monroe, 90.20
6. Arkansas State, 82
7. Troy, 65.60
8. Louisiana-Lafayette, 35
9. South Alabama, 29
9. Florida Atlantic, 29
11. UALR, 13

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