Men place 5th at Greater Louisville Classic

Chemaoi, Songock and Sangau all have top 15 finishes

October 3, 2009 · Christian Lemon

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - The Middle Tennessee cross country teams competed in the fourth meet on the teams' schedule, the Greater Louisville Classic at the E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park in Louisville, Ky.

The men's team, led by 11th place overall finisher Festus Chemaoi and 14th place William Songock, finished 5th out of 39 teams with 251 points. The team improved three positions from 2008 where the men placed 8th in a 33 team field. Chemaoi finished in a time of 24:20, almost 40 seconds faster than last season. Songock ran the 8,000 meter course in 24:23.

Chris Mason finished third for the Blue Raiders, 57th overall, in a time of 25:18. David Emery ran strong, placing 85th in 25:37 with Isaac Biwott 10 seconds behind in 104th in 25:47. Josh Wheeler rounded out the men's squad.

"It was a good race and I am really proud of them," said head coach Dean Hayes. "Having Festus and William towards the front shows they have worked really hard. We like this race because the larger field gets the overwhelming feeling of large field races out the runner's system. This way, when we run the Sun Belt meet they are confident against the smaller 11 team field.

Zamzam Sangau once again led the Middle Tennessee women's team placing 11th running the women's 5,000 meter course in a time of 17:43. She improved two positions as she placed 13th in 2008.

Jackie Serem and Marla Bailey finished side by side both in 18:26 to take 45th and 46th. Bailey shaved 20 seconds from her time last season.

Amber Kassuba placed 140th in 19:32 with Kayla Bryan placing 168th in 19:45 to lead the team's freshman. Alissa Ruggle came in 225th in 20:35, Samantha Hunt ran 250th in 20:59, and Stephanie Smith finished 267th in 21:37.

The women finished 13th as a team with 386 points. They improved three spots from the 2008 race, where the team placed 16th.

The teams will return to Chattanooga, Tenn. in two weeks for the UTC Invitational; their last tune up race before the Sun Belt Championships in Monroe, La., on October 31. Full results and coverage for all Middle Tennessee cross country races will be available on goblueraiders.com.

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