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Chemaoui qualifies for NCAA Championships

First Middle Tennessee runner to qualify for NCAA Championships in 38 years

Christian Lemon

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee junior Festus Chemaoui has qualified for the NCAA Cross Country National Championships on Monday, November 23th in Terre Haute, Ind.

Chemaoui advanced by placing 13th overall at the NCAA South Regional meet in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Saturday. Although he did not qualify initially, the Ainobkoi, Kenya native received an at-large bid as one of the top five individual finishers not on a qualified team. When it was announced Auburn had earned a national bid, Chemaoui was placed in the top five not on a qualified team.

Chemaoui becomes the first Blue Raider runner to compete at the NCAA Championships since Richard Russo in 1971. He and female teammate Zamzam Sangau, who will be the first ever Lady Raider to run on the national level, will represent Middle Tennessee next Monday.

Stay tuned to goblueraiders.com and naaa.com for results and coverage.

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Festus Chemaoui qualified for the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., Saturday placing 13th overall at the NCAA South Regional Championships. He was the fourth highest finisher not on a team to qualify for the NCAA Championships. (Athletic Communications)

