Blue Raiders to compete at Ed Temple Classic

Athletes to compete in second meet of the season

January 8, 2010 · Christian Lemon

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee track and field teams will return to action after a three week hiatus for the holidays Sunday at the Ed Temple Classic hosted by Tennessee State on the TSU campus.

"This is a good meet for those athletes that have been training over the Christmas break," said head coach Dean Hayes. "We will not have a full team but most will compete. It should be fun for us."

The Ed Temple Classic will feature collegiate squads from Florida A&M, Alabama A&M, Chattanooga, Lipscomb, Savannah State and Tennessee State in addition to the Blue Raiders.

Sarah Nambawa, the top jumper for the Blue Raider women's team will be entered in the long and triple jump events. The Uganda native has already notched an NCAA Automatic Qualifying mark of 44-3 (13.48m) in the triple jump and a provisional mark of 20-10.5 (6.36m) in the long jump. They are currently the longest jumps registered in the NCAA in the young 2009-10 indoor season and were both recorded in December at the MT Christmas Invitational. Nyeisha Wright and Kortney Thurman are also slated to compete in the jump events.

Senior throwers Brittany Cox and MeLyn Thompson will take part in the shot put. Cox earned a berth in the NCAA Outdoor Championships in 2009 and will look for her first NCAA Indoor qualifying mark. Also, newcomers Cherice Roberson and Anne Dudley will enter the 55 meter hurdles and high jump events. Zamzam Sangau, Jackie Serem and Stephanie Smith will all run the distance events.

On the men's side, long jumper Stanley Gbagbeke currently holds the top men's long jump in the NCAA this season with a leap of 25-3 (7.69m), recorded at the MT Christmas Invitational. Roscoe Payne, the 2009 Sun Belt Outdoor Freshman of the Year, and DeRay Sloss will compete in the 55 meter hurdles, Curtis King will run the sprints and Festus Chemaoi will compete in the distance events.

Sunday's meet will be an excellent tune-up opportunity for the Blue Raiders before they travel to Lexington, Ky., next weekend for the Kentucky Invitational to compete against some of the top teams in the region.

Meet results and coverage will be available post meet on goblueraiders.com.

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