Guillou Finishes Third, Comstock Fourth at UTC

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Both teams finished second, and Jonathan Guillou was third while Ashley Comstock placed fourth to lead the Middle Tennessee cross country teams Saturday on the Moccasin Bend course at the UTC Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Comstock led the women's team to a second-place finish among six teams, as all of the female harriers recorded personal-best times on the two-mile course. The women continue to improve with each race, according to head coach Dean Hayes, a big factor as the conference championships loom in two weeks.

"Ashley continues to run very well, and Kaitlyn [Hammond] too," Hayes said. "And Marjorie Gombert keeps getting better with each race. The women ran very well as a team and are really looking good heading into the Sun Belt [Championships]."

Comstock paced the squad with her fourth-place finish in a time of 11:30, with Hammond placing 10th in 12:14. Gombert followed right behind in 11th just one second behind Hammond, while Sara Lunning was 15th (12:36) and Miranda Galloway placed 23rd (12:58). Carlissa Shaw (14:11), Ashleigh Thaler (14:12) and Catherine Chester (14:18) were 35th-37th, respecetively.

The men ran without Steve Safstrom for the third straight race, but Hayes saw improvement from the guys at the bottom of the lineup.

"Jonathan ran well again, and Derek [Dell] has been solid throughout," he said. "And Tony Carufe keeps improving, which is a big positive."

Guillou had his fourth Top 10 finish of the year, placing third on the 5K course in a time of 15:49. Dell was seventh in 16:07, while Carufe finished 16th in 17:19, tying his best performance of the season

from the Arkansas State Invitational two weeks ago.

Matthew Young finished 22nd in 18:03, while Luke Pfleger was 27th in 18:28. Ryan Hood, (29th, 19:55) and Matt Tipton (35th, 25:21) were the final two competitors for the Blue Raiders.

Middle Tennessee now begins preparation for the Sun Belt Championships, set for October 29 in Miami, Fla.

RESULTS (2nd/4)
MEN - 5K
3. Jonathan Guillou, 15:49
7. Derek Dell, 16:07
16. Tony Carufe, 17:19
22. Matthew Young, 18:03
27. Luke Pfleger, 18:28
29. Ryan Hood, 19:55
35. Matt Tipton, 25:21

WOMEN - 2 miles (2nd/6)
4. Ashley Comstock, 11:30
10. Kaitlyn Hammond, 12:14
11. Marjorie Gombert, 12:15
15. Sara Lunning, 12:36
23. Miranda Galloway, 12:58
35. Carlissa Shaw, 14:11
36. Asheligh Thaler, 14:12
37. Catherine Chester, 14:18

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