Wright earns field AOW honor

Junior to compete with team at Penn Relays

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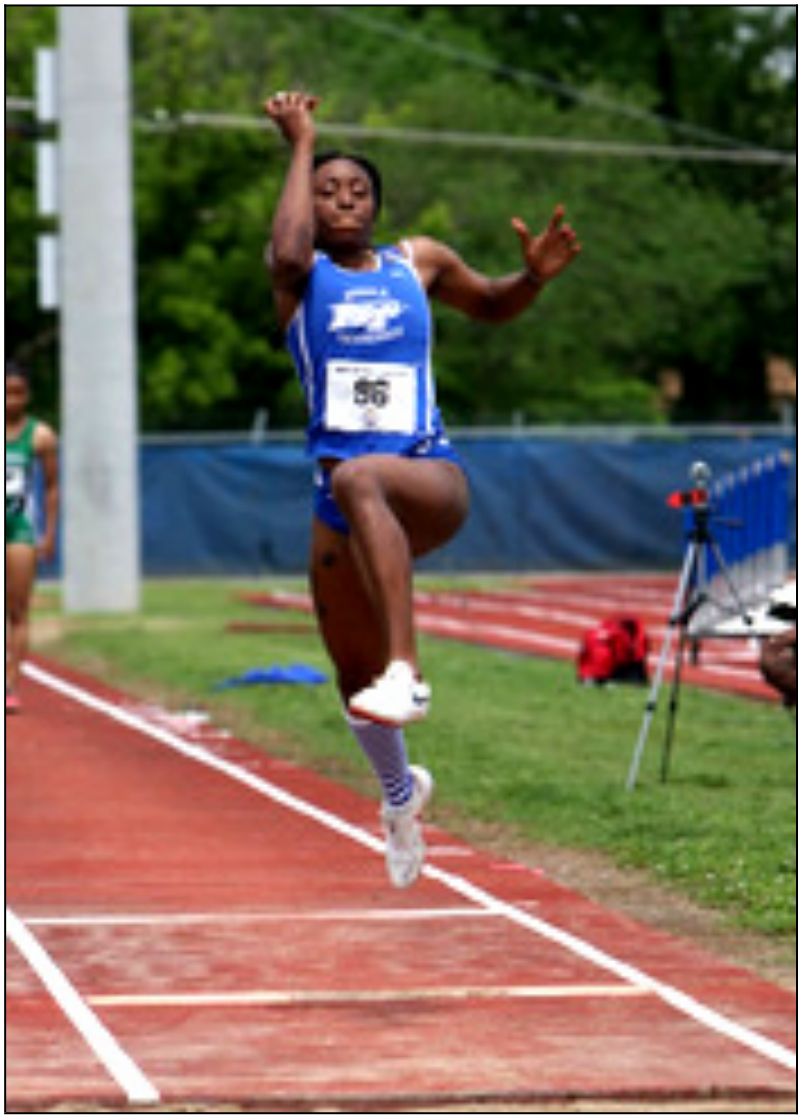

NEW ORLEANS - Middle Tennessee junior jumper/sprinter Nyeisha Wright was named Sun Belt Field Athlete of the Week for her winning performances in both the long jump and 100 meter dash at the Vanderbilt Invitational last weekend.

Wright's winning long jump was an outdoor best leap of 19-11.75 (6.09m). The mark is the second longest in the Sun Belt this season and it places her 12th in the NCAA East Region. Her winning time of 11.74 is a lifetime best in the 100 meters. It is the fourth fastest time in the conference this season.

The Colorado Springs, Colo., native will join teammates, Kiara Henry, Kortney Thurman and Cherice Robertson on the Blue Raider 4x100 meter relay team at the prestigious Penn Relays. Wright, Henry, Thurman and Amber Jackson will enter the 4x200 meter relays. The preliminary round for each relay is scheduled for Friday afternoon. Wright and Thurman are scheduled to compete in Thursday's long jump event with Robertson entered in the start list of the high jump also on Thursday.

The men's 4x100 meter relay team will consist of Greg Franklin, Curtis King, Robert Carter and Philip Tanner. Franklin, King and Carter will join Roscoe Payne to compete in both the 4x200 and 4x400 meter relays. The men's preliminary rounds for each event will be Friday afternoon.

Other individual Blue Raider competitors include Brittany Cox who will throw in the shot put, discus and hammer throw. Cox qualified for the college women's championship division in the shot put. All women's throwing events are scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Sarah Nambawa will compete in the college women's championships division in both the long and triple jump. Nambawa placed fourth in the triple jump championships at last season's Penn Relays.

Zamzam Sangau's is entered in Thursday's college women's championship 3,000 meters. This is Sangau's first Penn Relay competing as an individual.

Festus Chemaoi took first place in a school record (14:17.19) in the 5,000 meter men's college division last year at Franklin Field. The junior will move to the competitive 5,000 meter men's championships division this year.

Stanley Gbagbeke will jump in Friday's college men's championships long jump competition. The Nigeria native holds a career long 26-5 (8.05m) mark and could challenge as the top jumper in the field.

Middle Tennessee has had a history of strong performances at the country's oldest meet with the greatest coming in early '90s, when Dean Hayes' 4x200 meter team won the event two consecutive seasons. The Blue Raider times led the country both years when all times were compiled at the end of the respective seasons.

"The athletes look forward to this meet," said Hayes. "It is the oldest running track meet in the U.S. and is only topped by the Olympic trials with regards to size and number of athlete and spectators."

Coverage of all Middle Tennessee athletes each day will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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