Brasz and Chemaoi lead Cross Country

Brasz run second fastest time in school history

October 2, 2010 · Christian Lemon

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Middle Tennessee's Deanna Brasz continued her impressive freshman campaign, Saturday, as the Vineland Station, Ontario native placed 38th collegiately in a deep field at the Greater Louisville Classic in Louisville, Ky. The women's team placed 28th out of 35 schools, with the men's squad finishing 24th of 38 schools.

Noted as 'the largest college meet in the south,' the Greater Louisville Classic featured 97 colleges and universities from 20 states. Of the 97 schools, 29 men's teams and 23 women's teams are currently ranked in the NAIA, NCAA Division I Regional, NCAA Division II National, NCAA Division III National or NJCCA cross country polls.

"This was the largest race in the season to this point and it is a experience that will help moving forward to the Sun Belt Championships," said head coach Dean Hayes. "The runners were continually battling runners throughout, which makes the race tougher physically and mentally."

Brasz's time of 17:48 is the second fastest run at the Louisville meet by a Blue Raider athlete, just missing Zamzam Sangau's time of 17:43 run in 2009.

Kristen Tithof and Alissa Ruggle both ran well placing 134th and 179th, respectively, as the second and third MT finishers. Ruggle shaved over a minute and thirty second from her time last season.

Caroline Tanui and Autumn Gipson rounded out the Blue Raider scorers. Tanui placed 194th in 19:11 with Gipson taking 225th in 18:32.

As a team, the ladies scored 681 points, placing 28th out of 35 schools.

In the men's race, Festus Chemaoi continued his strong senior season. Chemaoi was the top team finisher, placing 48th in 24:42.

Chris Mason and Isaac Biwott put together solid performances placing 85th in 25:05 and 105th in 25:15, respectively. Mason shaved 13 seconds off his time from last season, while Biwott improved his mark from 2009 by 31 seconds.

Newcomers Justin Cacaro and Keith Davis placed 161th and 219th, respectively. Cacaro completed the 8,000 meter course in 25:41 with Davis recording a time of 26:31.

"We had a handful of people pr on the course today. These races get our runner experience continually fighting for position."

The teams will return action in two weeks as they will compete at the UTC FrontRunner Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn. Full results and coverage will be available at GoBlueRaiders.com.

Middle Tennessee Women

38. Deanna Brasz 17:48
134. Kristen Tithof 18:48
179. Alissa Ruggle 19:02
194. Caroline Tanui 19:11
225. Autumn Gipson 19:32
230. Rachel Islam 19:35

Middle Tennessee Men

52. Festus Chemaoi 24:42
90. Chris Mason 25:05
110. Issac Biwott 25:15
172. Justin Cacaro 25:41
225. Keith Davis 26:31

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