

# Track shows well at Kentucky Invitational

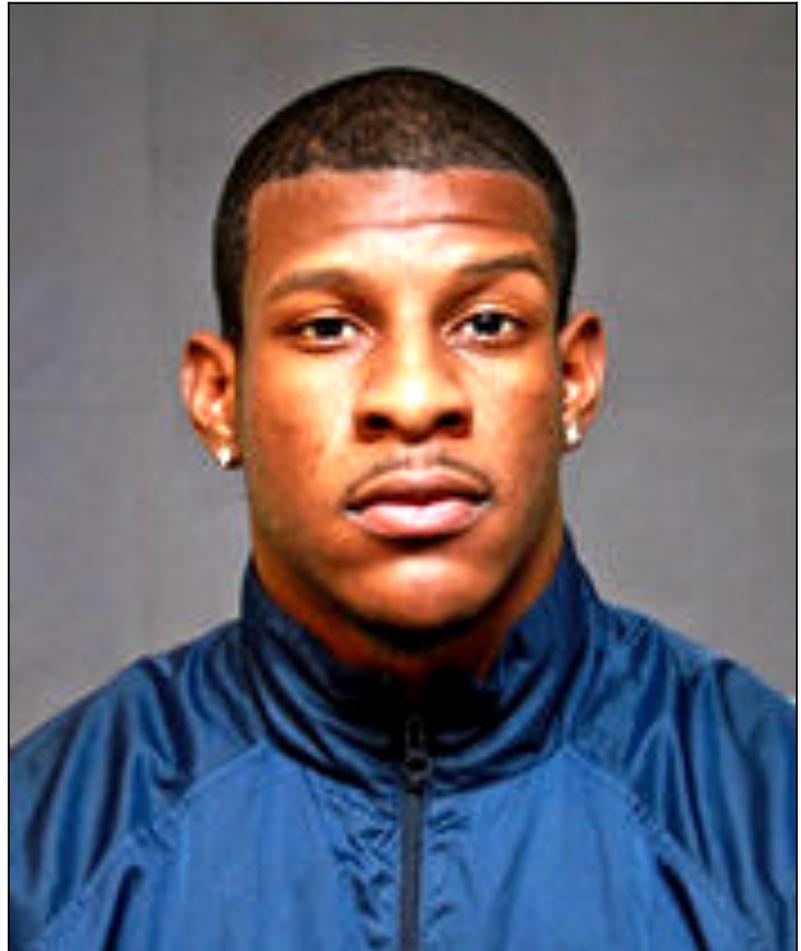
## Six conference leading marks posted by teams

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**LEXINGTON, Ky.** - Middle Tennessee's mens and womens track and field teams both posted solid performances at this weekend's Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky., as the teams totaled six marks that will top the Sun Belt Conference lists.

- **2011 Kentucky Invitational Results**

Although no Middle Tennessee athlete posted an individual victory at the weekend meet, the Blue Raiders recorded six top Sun Belt Conference marks as well as high ranking NCAA numbers in their respective events.



In the Friday night session, Josh Butler's triple jump of 50-6 (15.39m) placed him fourth in the NCAA and first in the conference. Cordario Golden took seventh at the meet with a leap of 47-4.5 (14.44m).

Noah Akwu entered Saturday as the Sun Belt's top quarter-miler. The Nigeria native improved his standing conference time to 47.90. He took second collegiately, moving him to 11th in the NCAA in the event. Steven Palmer placed third in a season best time of 48.60.

Justus David ran the SBC's best mile, clocking 4:13.78. He placed seventh collegiately.

The men's ended the meet, placing third in the 4x400 meter relay in 3:14.14. The relay team of Kendall Bacchus, Palmer, Roscoe Payne and Akwu, bettered their standing conference leading time set at the MT Christmas Invitational by more than half a second. They currently sit 19th in the NCAA.

"This 4x400 team is running well in the early part of the season," said head coach Dean Hayes. "Having guys who run well in this event helps us in a lot of the other sprint events."

On the women's side, newcomer Rosina Amenbede ran the NCAA's 10th fastest time in the 60 meter hurdles, clocking 8.48 as the second collegiate finisher. Her time ranks as the best in SBC this season. Teammate Cherice Robertson came in 17th in 8.71.

Ann Dudley finished as the second overall collegiate finisher in the high jump, leaping 5-9.5 (1.76m). Robertson placed fourth collegiately with a mark of 5-7.25 (1.71m).

Kortney Thurman set an indoor long jump PR of 19-9.5 (6.03m), finishing second overall. She currently sits third in the SBC in the event. Kiara Henry took third with Nyeisha Wright placing fifth with respective marks of 19-6.75 (5.96m) and 18-7 (5.66m).

Amber Jackson had another solid outing, placing fifth collegiately in the 400 meters. Jackson just missed breaking her indoor personal best with a time of 56.48.

In the 800 meters, Rachel Islam topped the Sun Belt performance list, with a 10th place time of 2:19.32. Autumn Gipson, who sits second behind Islam, came in 17th in 2:22.98.

"Getting Rosina (Amenbede) for the women and Justus (David) on the men's side was good. Overall both team did well. This meet gives our athletes a chance to see how they fair against some SEC schools."

NCAA standings may change slightly when all of the weekend's meets have been reported.

The team's return to action next weekend as they will play host to the 2011 Blue Raider Invitational. Full results and live coverage will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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