Raiders Post Nine Wins at Vanderbilt Invitational

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's track teams posted nine event victories at the Vanderbilt Invitational Friday and Saturday in Nashville, Tenn., setting personal-bests and meet records in the process. The Middle Tennessee women collected three first-place finishes, including wins in the 200-meters, 100-meter hurdles and triple jump, while the Blue Raider men had six wins, including the 200 and 400-meters, the 110-metere hurdles, 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays and the long jump. For the women, sophomore Antranette Stringer led a group of three Blue Raiders in the 200-meters, posting a regional qualifying and winning time of 23.94. Junior Tiffany Owens was fifth in 24.38 and junior Veronia Patterson came in eighth in 24.90. Senior Candice Robertson won the 100-meter hurdles with an NCAA regional qualifying mark of 13.88, while sophomore Sierra Douglas improved her PR in the event again, placing third in 14.59 and freshman Iceca Epps was sixth in 15.07. Stringer also placed second in the 100-meters in 11.85, with Owens seventh in 12.01 and freshman Erika Palmer eighth in 12.07. Also, senior Kerry Barrow finished seventh in the 400-meters in 58.14 and senior Sara Lunning posted a personal-best Friday night in the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:31.47. In the field events sophomore Stephanie Tamgho won the triple jump with a mark of 40-1.25 and placed third in the long jump on Friday with a mark of 19-1.25. Douglas was fourth in Saturday's triple jump with a mark of 38-8.75 and was fifth in the long jump with a personal-best 18-6.5. On the men's side junior Orlando Reid led a 1-2-3 finish in the 200-meters, winning with an NCAA regional qualifying time of 20.64. Senior VanTonio Fraley was second with his own NCAA

regional mark of 20.79, while freshman Samuel Adade was third in 21.42. Fraley finished second in the 100-meters with an NCAA regional qualifying time of 10.49 and Adade was fourth in 10.61. In the 400-meters junior Sean Waller posted another NCAA qualifying mark, winning in 46.99 and junior Tavaris Leak was seventh in 48.29. Senior Linnie Yarbrough and junior Juan Walker both registered NCAA qualifying times in the 110-meter hurdles, placing 1-2, respectively, with times of 13.81 and 13.88. Freshman Pete Senatus placed second in the 400-meter hurdles in 52.66 and Yarbrough was right behind in third in 52.69. Senior Jonathan Guillou posted a personal-best Friday night in the 3000-meter steeplechase, finishing fourth in a time of 9:18.43. The men's relays both won, with the 4x100 foursome of Walker, Reid, junior Daryl Terrell and Fraley posted an NCAA regional mark of 39.83. The second 4x100 team of freshman Jonathan Oliver, Senatus, junior Jermaine Barton and Adade was fifth in 41.08. The 4x400-meter relay of Barton, Terrell, Fraley and Leak broke the meet record set in 2002, also by Middle Tennessee, winning with a time of 3:12.43. In the field events senior Julius Defour posted a personal-best in the high jump, placing fifth and clearing 6-8. Walker won the long jump late Friday with a mark of 24-9.25, with Yarbrough sixth with a mark of 23-3.25 and Waller seventh with a mark of 23-2.5. Senior JJ Sturm came in fifth in Saturday's triple jump with a mark of 46-7.25. Head coach Dean Hayes was very happy with the weekend performances as the Blue Raiders prepare for the Sun Belt Championships in three weeks. "We had some really good performances [Friday and Saturday], setting personal-bests in a whole bunch of areas and continuing to improve," Hayes said. "We're really setting ourselves up for a strong conference meet in May." Next week the track teams will be split up, with part of the squad at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa., April 27-29, and the rest of the team participating in the Western Kentucky Invitational in Bowling Green, Ky., on Saturday.

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