

Track shows well at Boston-Moon Invitational

Thurman's jump is top-five in the NCAA

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's track and field teams were outstanding on Saturday, winning 10 events at the 2011 Boston-Moon Invitational.

Kortney Thurman had the performance of the day, leaping 20-11.25 (6.38m) to win the long jump. This career best leads the conference and is the fourth longest in the NCAA this season. The jump ranks as the third-best in program history.

Also jumping well were Kiara Henry and Cherice Robertson. Henry placed third and Robertson took fourth with respective marks of 20-5 (6.22m) and 19-9 (6.03m). Robertson's leap is a personal best.

Henry set personal bests in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, respectively placing third and second. The Powder Springs, Ga., native ran times of 11.78 and 24.14.

Robertson and fellow hurdler Rosina Amenbede went one, two in the 100-meter distance. Amenbede won in 13.76 with Robertson placing second in 13.82. Amenbede's time is a personal best.

Quarter-miler Amber Jackson ran a season-best time of 55.51 winning the event. She currently sits sixth in the conference.

Autumn Gipson's time of 4:54.13 in the 1,500 meters placed her third in the race and is her best time



in the metric mile since coming to Middle Tennessee.

The 4x100-meter relay team of Henry, Thurman, Amenbede and Nyeisha Wright took victory in 45.85.

In the triple jump, France Makabu jumped 40-11.5 (12.48m) to finish as the top collegiate. This is a personal best for the Paris native and places her atop the Sun Belt performance list. Alumni Sarah Nambawa was the top overall finisher with a jump of 46-1.5 (14.06m). The mark is a lifetime best for the four-time All-American and ranks as the 13th longest in the world this year.

Ann Dudley won the high jump with a height of 5-8 (1.73m). This mark is tops in the Sun Belt. Robertson finished third in 5-6 (1.68m).

On the men's side, Festus Chemaoui doubled, winning both the 800 and 1,500 meters. Chemaoui recorded times of 1:54.37 and 3:54.33 in the two races.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Kendall Bacchus, Roscoe Payne, Noah Akwu and Nathaniel Moore won the event in 3:14.14.

Akwu and Bacchus took second and third in the 100-meter dash with times of 10.55 and 10.64, respectively.

The 4x100-meter relay of Robert Carter, Akwu, Bacchus and Palmer placed second in 41.09.

Josh Butler won the high jump, leaping 7-0.25 (2.14m). He leads the conference in the event is one of only 24 NCAA athletes to jump over seven feet in 2011. He also finished fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 46-8.25 (14.23m).

"We did really well on the men's and women's side," head coach Dean Hayes said. "I was pleased to see us get some good performances that will rank well in the both the conference and the NCAA.

The teams return to action next weekend as they travel back to Auburn to run at the 2011 War Eagle Invitational. Post-meet coverage and results will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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