Men Win Second Outdoor Title

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's men picked up 26 points in the field events before dominating the sprints, overwhelming the rest of the field and winning the 2006 Sun Belt Outdoor Track & Field Championships Sunday night in Lafayette, La. The women performed well on Sunday, placing fifth. The Blue Raiders won by a convincing 58.5 points overall, with junior Orlando Reid winning both the 100 and 200-meters as well as running as a member of the winning 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays. Senior Linnie Yarbrough won his third straight 110-meter hurdles at the conference championships, while freshman Pete Senatus claimed a win in the intermediate hurdles. The title is the second for the Middle Tennessee men outdoors and first since 2001, the program's first official year in the Sun Belt. The men won the school's 13th SBC championship in six years in the league and claimed both the indoor and outdoor titles this year. It was also the 42nd conference championship for head coach Dean Hayes in 41 years at the helm of the program. The Blue Raiders got off to a good start, finishing second, sixth and seventh in the hammer throw Sunday morning. Junior James Thomas was second with a school-record mark of 180-10, with senior Nick Diel sixth with a personal-best 162-8 and junior Willie Parker seventh with a personal-best 162-5. Parker followed that up with a fourth-place finish in the javelin with a mark of 173-3, while senior JJ Sturm scored eight points in the triple jump with a personal-best mark of 49-5.5. Junior JaKeith Hairston was eighth in the event with a mark of 45-8. The men began the running events in fine form, with the foursome of freshman Samuel Adade, Reid, junior Daryl Terrell and senior VanTonio Fraley winning the 4x100-meter relay in 40.22. Junior Tony Carufe then placed seventh in 1500-meters with a personal-best mark of 4:02.40. Yarbrough won his third consecutive 110-meter hurdles finals at the SBC Championships, clocking a time of 13.96. Senatus was fifth in 14.87, pulling the Blue Raiders within half-a-point. Middle Tennessee took the lead for good in the 400-meters, picking up 12 points. Junior Sean Waller placed second in the 400 in 47.42, followed by junior Jermaine Barton in sixth in 48.52 and freshman Tavaris Leak in eighth in 48.74. The Blue Raiders opened up a nice cushion after the 100-meters, picking up 23 points in the event. Reid led four team members in the 100, taking his first of two sprint victories in a time of 10.37. Fraley was second in 10.54, junior Derek Carey was fifth in 10.70 and Adade came in sixth in 10.75. Yarbrough was leading the 400-meter hurdles but fell near the end, taking out himself and the second-place runner, Florida International's Ronald Forbes. Senatus claimed the victory with a time of 52.54, adding another 10 points to the team score. Less than an hour later, Reid coasted to his second individual win, this one in the 200-meters. The junior finished with a time of 20.85, with Fraley second in 21.14 and Adade seventh in 21.99. Middle Tennessee led by 50 points after the 200-meters with just two events remaining. Senior Jonathan Guillou, who placed second in the

steeplechase Saturday night, finished third in the 5000-meters in a time of 14:54.39. The men clinched the victory in convincing fashion, with the foursome of Terrell, Reid, Barton and Waller winning the 4x400-meter relay in a time of 3:08.73. On the women's side, senior Candice Robertson placed second in the 100-meter hurdles and junior Shanna-Kay Campbell was second in the 400-meters, leading the women's team to a fifth-place showing. Robertson just missed her second straight win at the conference meet in the high hurdles, finishing second in 13.87. Freshman Iceca Epps was third in the event with a mark of 14.59. Campbell led three Blue Raiders in the 400, coming in second in an NCAA regional qualifying mark of 54.59. Junior Veronia Patterson was third in 54.66 and sophomore Antranette Stringer placed seventh in 56.27. Campbell and Stringer finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the 200-meters, with times of 24.53 and 24.90. Sophomore Marjorie Gombert ran very well in the 800-meters, placing third with a time of 2:14.73, while junior Tiffany Owens was seventh in the 100-meters in 12.11 and Patterson came in sixth in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:03.80. The women's 4x100-meter relay of Epps, freshman Erika Palmer, Robertson and Owens was fifth with a time of 46.69. The women's 4x400-meter relay of freshman TraMayne Gillyard, Stringer, Campbell and Patterson won the final event of the meet with a time of 3:41.37. In the field events, senior Meaghan Byrd was fourth in the hammer with a mark of 154-2. Sophomore Stephanie Tamgho placed third in the triple jump with a mark of 39-9.75, while sophomore Sierra Douglas came in fourth with a mark of 39-5.25. Full results from the meet may be found at sunbeltsports.org or deltatiming.com.

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