Akwu doubles on at final day of SBC Outdoor

Sophomore named co-Trackman of the Year

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee trackman Noah Awku doubled, taking the 200- and 400-meter dashes on the final day of competition at the 2011 Sun Belt Outdoor Championships at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium. The men's team took sixth in the competition, while the women tied for fourth.

Akwu, a native of Egume, Nigeria ran times ran respective times of 21.16 and 47.93 to take the duel victories. He was awarded Sun Belt co-Trackman of the Year for his accomplishments.

Teammate Steven Palmer was second behind Akwu in the 400 with a time of 48.09.

Palmer ran a fantastic anchor lap to cap off a victory in the men's 4x400-meter relays. The team of Robert Carter, Nathaniel Moore, Kendall Bacchus and Palmer performed well in the meet's final event to help the team's standings after a lackluster showing.

In the triple jump, Cordario Golden and Josh Butler combined to score five points. Golden placed fifth with a mark of 49-2.5 (15.0m), while Butler came in eighth, jumping 48-4 (14.73m).

Butler followed his performance in the triple by taking second in the high jump. The senior leapt 6-7 (2.1m) to match the winning entrant. Butler took second on attempts.

Festus Chemaoi came in third in the 1,500 meters. Chemaoi, the 2009 conference champion in the event, clocked a time of 3:55.96 on the day.

Unfortunately, Chemaoi was unable to three-peat in the 800 meters. The senior took sixth in the race with a time of 1:56.45.

In the 100-meter dash, Kendall Bacchus and Ken Gilstrap took a respective eighth and ninth in the event. Bacchus clocked 10.78, while Gilstrap ran 11.12.

Although qualified for the Sunday's 110- and 400-meter hurdle finals, junior Roscoe Payne did not start either event because of injury.

Western Kentucky (144.5) took the title with ULM (132) placing second. Arkansas State (101) finished third.

The women's jumping corps added 12 points in the their meet total. Kortney Thurman took third, marking 41-1 (12.52m). France Makabu finished fifth with a throw of 40-9.75 (12.44m). Nyeisha Wright came in seventh on a a 39-8 (12.09m) leap.

Freshman hurdler Rachel Islam came in sixth in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:05.47 to score three points.

The women's 4x100-meter relay team of Rosina Amenebede, Kortney Thurman, Nyeisha Wright and Kiara Henry were silver medalists in the event. The quartet ran a combined time of 45.62.

Western Kentucky (147) won their sixth-straight outdoor crown. Arkansas State (110) was second with North Texas (93.5) third.

The Blue Raiders return to action in two weeks as qualifying athletes will travel to the NCAA East Region Preliminary Round in Bloomington, Ind. Results and coverage will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com.

WOMEN'S TEAM STANDINGS - FINAL Western Kentucky - 147Arkansas State - 110North Texas - 93.5FIU - 86**Middle Tennessee - 86**South Alabama - 75Florida Atlantic - 69Louisiana-Lafayette - 63.5Troy - 31.5ULM - 31UALR - 25.5**TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**Alysha Adams NT**FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**Lindsay Schwartz USA**TOP MEET SCORER**Alysha Adams NT **FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**Sharika Nelvis ASU**COACH OF THE YEAR**Eric Jenkins WKU**MEN'S TEAM STANDINGS - FINAL**Western Kentucky - 144.5ULM - 132Arkansas State - 101South Alabama - 88.5Troy - 84.5**Middle Tennessee - 84**Louisiana-Lafayette - 65.5North Texas - 65UALR - 34FIU - 17**TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEARNoah Akwu MT**Daniel Mutai**FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**Joey Torres USA**TOP MEET SCORER**Shadrack Kipchirchir WKU**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR** David Mokone WKU**COACH OF THE YEAR**J.D. Malone ULM

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