Thurman qualifies at NCAA East Regional

Senior places eighth to advance to NCAA Finals

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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - Senior Kortney Thruman qualified for the 2011 NCAA Outdoor Championships on Thursday at the NCAA East Region Prelims.

Thurman, a native Power Springs, Ga., recorded a mark of 20-3.75 (6.18m) in the long jump. The distance was good enough to place her eighth on the day and advance her to next month's NCAA finals in Des Moines, Iowa. Thurman is scheduled to enter Friday's triple jump preliminaries in hopes of qualifying in both events.

Teammate Kiara Henry showed well in the event, jumping 19-9 (6.02m). Henry, the 2011 Sun Belt Outdoor long jump Champion, finished 14th, just missing the top-12 position needed to advance.Also entered were Nyeisha Wright and Cherice Robertson. Wright recorded a final mark of 19-3.5 (5.88m), while an injured Robertson withdrew in order to compete in Friday's high jump event.

Sophomore quarter-miler Noah Akwu ran third in the fifth heat of the men's 400-meter dash in a time of 47.19. Akwu, the 2011 Sun Belt Outdoor Champion, will run in the semi-finals on Friday in hopes of moving to the finals in Des Moines.

Fellow quarter-miler Steven Palmer took eighth in the sixth and will not advance.

Junior Roscoe Payne competed in the 400-meter hurdles. The Flint, Mich., native clocked a time of

57.18 in the fifth heat of the men's competition. He does not advance to Friday's semi-final round.

Men's high jumper Josh Butler was unable to advance in the event to June 8th's NCAA Outdoor Championships. The senior cleared the opening height of 6-7 (2.01m). He did not record another mark, and finished out of the top-12.

Distance-runner Festus Chemaoi ended his illustrious Blue Raider career. The senior ran injured in the second heat of the men's 1,500 meters. He will not advance to Friday's semi-finals. In his time at Middle Tennessee, Chemaoi amassed 10 Sun Belt individual crowns and holds four program records between the indoor and outdoor circuits.

Stay tuned to GoBlueRaiders.com as the teams continue competition at the 2011 NCAA East Region Preliminaries.

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