Track & Field performs well at MT Christmas Invitational

Men, women open season with good starts

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- The Middle Tennessee track & field teams opened their season with a successful day at the Middle Tennessee Christmas Invitational on Saturday at the Murphy Center. The Blue Raider men and women dominated the day's jumps events. Cordairo Golden led the way for the men, taking first in the triple jump competition with a leap of 48 feet, 8.25 inches (14.84m) and placing second in the long jump, posting a mark of 23-1.25 (7.02m). Freshman Solomon Atosona came in just behind Golden in the long jump, placing second while jumping a 23-00.50 (7.02m). "I am very pleased with what we were able to do today," said track & field head coach Dean Hayes. "We received some great performances from our upperclassmen and our newcomers also did very well. This meet was exactly what I was looking for as we head into the break." Michael Stokes had a very productive day for the men's squad. The senior won the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.43 seconds. He also finished third in the triple jump with a mark of 46-00.00 (14.02m) and fourth in the long jump, leaping a 23-00.00 (7.01m). Meanwhile Ann Dudley propelled the women's jumps efforts. The Jacksonville, Fla., native took home the crown in the high jump with an impressive mark of 6-00.00 (1.83m). She also finished first in the 55-meter hurdles, posting a time of 8.09 seconds. Freshman Christal Wilson followed immediately behind in the event with a time of 8.22 seconds. The Blue Raider women notched a

one-two finish in the triple jumps. France Makabu won the event with a jump of 41-05.00 (12.62m) while Euphemia Edem placed second, posting a 40-06.75 (12.36m). Edem also took first in the long jump with a leap measuring 19-08.25 (6.00m). In the sprints events, Roscoe Payne also came away with a first place finish for the men, taking the 55-meter hurdles in a time of 7.61 seconds. On the women's side, Amber Dandy and Sheniece Daphness placed second and third in the 55-meter dash with respective times of 7.32 and 7.37 seconds. The women also took first in the 400 meters as Kiara Henry won with a time of 59.44 seconds. Freshman Lucy Kapkiai registered victory in the 3,000 meters, logging a 10:11.74 to finish more than 42 seconds ahead of runner-up Allison Riedling of Western Kentucky. Transfers Robinson Simatei and Lyle Haywood helped guide the men in the distance events. Simatei claimed victory in the mile run, clocking a 4:22.05 while Haywood placed third with a time of 4:33.65. The Middle Tennessee track & field teams will step away from competition for Christmas break before returning to action on Jan. 7 at the Tennessee State Invitational in Nashville, Tenn. Follow the Blue Raider track & field teams on Twitter @MTTrackField and on Facebook at the MT Track & Field page. Also, stay up-to-date on the teams on the new Track & Field Notebook, which can be found here as well as linked on the Track & Field page on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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