Track & Field journeys to Kentucky Invitational

Blue Raiders make first of two Kentucky trips

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- The Middle Tennessee track and field teams will make the first of two trips this month to Lexington, Ky., when they head north this weekend for the Kentucky Invitational.

The meet will begin on Friday at 5 p.m. CT with the men's high jump, women's pole vault, weight throw and long jump competitions. Friday's session will conclude with the 4x800-meter relays, scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m.

The women's high jump and men's and women's triple jump events will kick off Saturday's slate at 9:30 a.m., which will wrap up with the men's 1,600-meter relay shortly after 4 p.m.

Joining the Blue Raiders in the field are host Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Miami (Fla.) and Tennessee. In addition, Arkansas, Bellarmine University, Marshall and Vanderbilt will be represented by their women's teams. Both Georgia squads as well as the Arkansas women enter the meet ranked in the USTFCCCA Indoor Track Preseason Top 25.

"This will be our first true road meet of the season," said Middle Tennessee head coach Dean

Hayes. "It will be a very competitive meet with some very good schools participating, so it should be a good experience for us."

The Blue Raiders are fresh off a strong showing at last weekend's Ed Temple Classic. Both teams captured two event titles while several Middle Tennessee athletes were the top collegiate finishers in their respective events. Additionally, a number of Blue Raiders including Solomon Atosona, Euphemia Edem, Cordairo Golden and Kiara Henry set personal bests at the meet.

Ann Dudley has gotten off to a strong start in 2012 for the Blue Raider women. The junior has collected a personal best time in the 55-meter hurdles as well as a personal best and NCAA automatic qualifying mark in the high jump. Through two meets, she has captured a total of three event titles.

Meanwhile, on the men's side, jumpers/sprinters Golden and Michael Stokes have been Middle Tennessee's best performers early in the year. Golden has set a personal best in his four events while Stokes has done the same in all three of his events. The two have captured one event title apiece.

While failing to claim any event titles, Middle Tennessee posted solid results at last season's Kentucky Invitational. Rosina Amenebede was the second collegiate finisher in the 60-meter hurdles while Dudley was the second collegiate finisher in the high jump competition.

Live statistics of this weekend's meet can be followed here. Results of each day's events will be posted on the teams' Facebook and Twitter pages as soon as they become available with a full recap and results available on GoBlueRaiders.com at the end of each day.

Follow the Blue Raider track and 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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