Track & Field returns home for Blue Raider Invitational

Blue Raiders part of seven-school field

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- The Blue Raider track and field teams return home to Murfreesboro this weekend as they host the Blue Raider Invitational on Saturday at the Murphy Center.

The meet is scheduled to kick off at 11 a.m. CT with the men's and women's shot put and will conclude with the one mile relays shortly before 5 p.m. The complete meet schedule can be found here.

Middle Tennessee will be joined in the competition by the men's and women's teams from Belmont, Chattanooga, UL-Lafayette, Milligan and Western Kentucky while Troy will be represented by their women's squad.

Middle Tennessee enters Saturday's meet coming off a strong performance at last weekend's Kentucky Invitational in which the teams combined to take home 12 top-five finishes.

"We had a great meet last weekend in Kentucky," said Middle Tennessee head coach Dean Hayes. "Our goal this

Saturday is to build off the momentum we gained last weekend and continue to get better in preparation for our upcoming meets."

Blue Raider junior Ann Dudley captured the women's high jump title last weekend with a leap of 5 feet, 11.50 inches (1.82 meters). The mark was just shy of her school-record and personal-best jump of 6-0.00 (1.83m) which came earlier this season at the MT Christmas Invitational.

Meanwhile fellow junior Cordairo Golden collected top-five finishes in each of the three jumps events, highlighted by his second-place finish in the triple jump in which he leaped a personal-best 50-0.75 (15.26m). Dudley and Golden were consequently named Sun Belt Male and Female Athletes of the Week for their efforts.

Middle Tennessee has also received successful performances this season from junior runner Amber Jackson and senior hurdler Roscoe Payne. In her first action this season, Jackson finished sixth in the 800 meters, clocking a 2:12.43. The race was the first 800-meter competition of her career and her time currently stands as the country's 14th best in the event so far this season.

Payne notched a personal-best time of 7.98 seconds in the preliminaries of the 60-meter hurdles at last weekend's meet before clocking an even 8.00 seconds in the finals to place second. The Flint, Mich., native also ran a 7.45 in the 55-meter hurdles at the Ed Temple Classic earlier this month which is the seventh best time recorded in the nation during the 2011-12 indoor track season.

Former Blue Raider jumper Josh Butler paced the Middle Tennessee men at last season's Blue Raider Invitational, winning the men's triple jump while placing second in the high jump competition. In addition, Payne took the 55-meter hurdles and finished third in the 200 meters. The women were propelled by Jackson who won the 400 meters as both squads came away with three event championships.

Live statistics of Saturday's meet can be followed here. Results of the 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 on Saturday night.

Photos from the meet will also appear on GoBlueRaiders.com on Saturday night with additional photos appearing on the teams' Facebook page.

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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