Track & Field sends four to NCAA Indoor Championships

Meet begins on Friday

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NAMPA, Idaho -- Ann Dudley, Cordairo Golden, France Makabu and Roscoe Payne will compete in the NCAA Division I Indoor National Championships this weekend at Jacksons Indoor Track in Nampa, Idaho.

Payne will be the first Blue Raider in action this weekend as he will run in the 60-meter hurdles. The preliminaries of the event are set for Friday at 6:30 p.m. CT with the finals taking place Saturday at 7:35 p.m. The senior is seeded 12th in the race as he qualified for the Championships by running a time of 7.22 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles at the Sun Belt Championships which adjusts to a 7.75 60-meter hurdle time.

Dudley will also compete on Friday, participating in the finals of the women's high jump at 9 p.m. She qualified for the event by leaping 6 feet (1.83 meters) at the season-opening MT Christmas Invitational on Dec. 10. The measurement places her ninth entering the competition.

On Saturday, Golden will jump in the men's triple jump while

Makabu will participate in the women's competition. The preliminaries and finals of the men's event will begin at 6:30 p.m. CT with the women scheduled to follow at 7:30 p.m. Both athletes qualified for this weekend's NCAA Indoor Championships based upon their efforts at last month's Sun Belt Championships. Golden leaped 52-1.75 (15.89m) and is seeded 11th this weekend and Makabu jumped 42-9.75 (13.05m) to earn the ninth best mark.

"I am thrilled for all four of these student-athletes being able to compete in the NCAA Championships," said Middle Tennessee head coach Dean Hayes. "They have all put together great seasons and careers and hopefully they will perform well this weekend."

The four Blue Raiders competing this weekend is the most competitors Middle Tennessee has sent to the Indoor Championships since the school entered the Sun Belt in 2000. Junior sprinter Noah Akwu finished sixth in the 200 meters at least season's NCAA Championships. The performance was good enough to earn him All-America honors, becoming the second male to earn the status in the event and 33rd Middle Tennessee NCAA Indoor All-American overall.

Fans are encouraged to visit the NCAA Division I Indoor Track & Field Championship page on NCAA.com. The page can be found here. The complete list of competitors in this weekend's meet can be viewed here. while the schedule of events can be accessed here.

Live statistics and video of the competition will be offered on NCAA.com. In addition, ESPN3 will stream the meet live on March 9 from 6:30-10:45 p.m. CT and March 10 from 7-10:15 p.m. CT. A tape delay of the championship will air Sunday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. CT on ESPNU. NCAA.com and broncosports.com will stream what ESPN3 is not covering on Friday (11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CT) and Saturday (11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. CT).

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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