Jumpers highlight Day 2 of Sun Belt Championships

Dudley runner-up in high jump

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LAFAYETTE, La. -- Middle Tennessee Indoor All-American high jumper Ann Dudley captured a runner-up finish in the women's high jump to lead the Blue Raiders on the second day of the 2012 Sun Belt Outdoor Track & Field Championships on Saturday.

The junior cleared the bar at 5 feet, 9.25 inches (1.76 meters), good enough to place second. Shahaf Bareni of North Texas won the event as she leaped 5-11.25 (1.81m).

Solomon Atosona led the Blue Raider men in the long jump competition. The sophomore finished fourth with a measurement of 23-4.75 (7.13m). Kameron Rory placed 10th while Cordairo Golden and Junior Cadet came away with respective 12th and 13th-place finishes.

On the women's side, senior Kiara Henry collected a fifth-place result with a jump of 19-7.50 (5.98m). Nyeisha Wright followed shortly behind in seventh as she posted a measurement of 19-6.00 (5.94m). The rest of the Middle Tennessee women's competitors mirrored the men's results as Euphemia Edem finished 10th while Amber Dandy was 12th and Rosina Amenebede took 13th.

Robinson Simatei led the Blue Raider distance runners on Saturday as he logged a time of 9:24.65 to finish fifth in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase event. Autumn Gipson also notched a fifth-place finish in the women's race with a time of 11:24.43.

Roscoe Payne led the way for the men's sprinters in Saturday's preliminary races as he advanced to both the 110 and 400-meter hurdle events with respective times of 14.23 and 51.70 seconds. Rycine Ellison, Steven Palmer and Noah Akwu also advanced to Sunday's final of the men's 400-meter hurdle event.

Christal Wilson posted the top time in the women's 400-meter hurdles, finishing the race in one minute, 0.47 seconds to capture a spot in the finals.

In the 100 meter dashes, Kenneth Gilstrap crossed the finish line in 10.49 seconds while Drayton

Calhoun came away with a time of 10.52 seconds as they both advanced to the finals of the men's race. Kiara Henry advanced to the women's final as she recorded a preliminary time of 11.72 seconds.

In the men's 200 meters, Noah Akwu clocked the fastest time in the preliminaries as he finished the race in 20.81 seconds. Gilstrap will also run in Sunday's final of the event as he advanced with a time of 21.44 seconds.

The disappointing result of the day came in the women's 100-meter hurdles as Amenebede and Dudley both fell and failed to advance to the event finals. Wilson also was unable to advance as she finished 11th overall.

The meet will continue Sunday at 10 a.m. with the men's hammer throw leading off the day. Complete 2012 Sun Belt Outdoor Track & Field Championship information including a schedule of events, heat sheets and live results can be found here.

Fans are encouraged to follow the teams this weekend on Twitter @MTTrackField and on Facebook at the MT Track & Field page as photos and videos will be posted throughout the weekend.

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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