Track & Field outdoor season in review

Blue Raiders compose another successful year

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- The 2012 Middle Tennessee outdoor track & field season came to a close this past weekend with the conclusion of the NCAA Championships in Des Moines, Iowa.

The season was another in a long line of successful campaigns under head coach Dean Hayes as both the men's and women's squads registered a number of spectacular performances amidst numerous event titles and top-five finishes.

The Blue Raider men and women both put up remarkably similar numbers this spring. The men's team captured 13 individual event titles and a total of 62 top-five finishes. Meanwhile the women also collected 13 competition titles to go along with a total of 64 top-five finishes. In addition, the men's team saw 25 of its performers notch a total of 51 personal-best finishes while the women recorded 38 personal-bests by 16 athletes.

Roscoe Payne and Noah Akwu led the way for the men on the track this season. Despite missing part of the season due to injury, Payne grabbed five individual titles including taking the 110-meter hurdle crown at the Sun Belt Championships. Akwu's season was also punctuated with a title at the conference meet as he won the 200 meters, his second title of the season in the competition.

Cordairo Golden steered the squad in the field events. The sophomore won a pair of event titles in both the triple jump and long jump titles to go along with new personal-best performances in all four of his events.

On the women's side, Ann Dudley was once again the highlight of the season. The Jacksonville, Fla., native capped her terrific year with a 13th-place finish in the high jump at the NCAA Championships. In all, she won the high jump crown at three meets while bringing in eight top-five results.

Nyeisha Wright capped her brilliant career with four long jump titles and seven top-five finishes while placing as the runner-up in the triple jump at the Sun Belt Championship meet. The Colorado Springs, Colo., product also joined Rosina Amenebede, Christal Wilson and Kiara Henry to compose the women's 4x100-meter relay team which advanced to the NCAA Championships, finishing 19th in the competition.

Lucy Kapkiai paced the women on the track in 2012 with a pair of distance event wins. While competing in just nine individual events, the freshman was able to gather seven top-10 results.

Additionally, Kapkiai was one of three Blue Raiders to set new school records this year. She posted a new school-best time in both the 5,000 and 10,000-meter runs. Dudley and Justus David meanwhile also notched new Middle Tennessee records with respective bests in the women's high jump and men's 10,000-meter events.

Stay tuned to GoBlueRaiders.com for the release of the 2012-13 schedule coming later this summer.

Continue to 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 Track & Field Notebook, which can be found here as well as linked on the Track & Field page on GoBlueRaiders.com.

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