Blue Raiders nab six titles at Ed Temple Invitational

MT's Distance Medley Relay teams perform clean sweep in event

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NASHVILLE - Middle Tennessee's track and field teams claimed six titles, including four in field events, at the Ed Temple Invitational, hosted by Tennessee State University on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders' champions were Rosina Amenebede (women's long jump), France Makabu (women's triple jump), Cordairo Golden (men's triple jump) and both the men's and women's "A" relay teams in the distance medley relay. Ann Dudley tied for first in the women's high jump.

Field Events

Three of the five MT titles came in field events at the Ed Temple Invitational, starting with Amenebede's 6.13 meter (20-1 1/2 feet) jump in the long jump.

Amenebede was joined in the event by teammates India Hammond, who jumped 5.51 meters, and Pershawna Williams (5.47 meters). Hammond and Williams finished 11th and 12th, respectively.

In the women's high jump, Dudley reached a height of 1.73 meters (5-8 feet) to tie The Heat's Kendell Williams in the third event of the day. MT's Williams (1.63 meters), tied for third.

Makabu was first in the women's triple jump by over .2 meters, crushing the field with a jump of 41-3 3/4 feet. Williams (11.5 meters) was ninth in the triple jump.

On the men's side, Cordairo Golden nabbed his second straight title in the men's triple jump as he

bounded 15.11 meters (49-7 feet), nearly .4 meters further than his closest competitor. Freshman Nigel Jones was 12th in the event with a distance of 12.99 meters.

Golden earned second in the men's long jump, finishing at 7.30 meters, a narrow .12 behind an unattached Solomon Atosona. Junior Cadet (7.16 meters), Kameron Rory (7.13 meters) and Jones (7.02 meters) were fifth through seventh in the event.

Individual Track Events

While no individual track titles were won on Saturday, several MT athletes competed, with the highest finish being Bryson Lillard's fourth place ranking in the men's 55 meter hurdles. Lillard had a time of 7.77 seconds in the finals.

In the women's 55 meter hurdles, Amenebede qualified second in 8.01 seconds, but failed to challenge the top finishers in the finals, earning a ninth place finish in 8.70 seconds. Dudley, who was the fifth qualifier, was sixth after clearing the finish line in 8.36 seconds.

Sheniece Daphness and Drayton Calhoun failed to qualify in their respective 55 meter dashes as Daphness (7.43 seconds) was 12th on the women's side and Calhoun (6.64 seconds) was 16th for the men. Calhoun did not compete at the MT Christmas Invitational due to football requirements.

Demetrius Shelton was the lone men's competitor in the 200 meter dash, but represented MT well with a sixth place finish (22.75 seconds).

The final individual event of the day that hosted Blue Raider athletes was the men's 800 meter run, where Asa Bowman (2:01.29) was ninth. Daniel Ketter (2:02.45) finished 10th and Jake Levin crossed the line 23rd (2:07.30).

Relay Events

MT's distance medley relay team's performed clean sweeps in their respective events. The women's "A" team, made up of Autumn Gipson, Christal Wilson, Rachel Islam and Julia Kitevski topped their competitors by over 15 seconds, cruising around the track in 12:29.26.

On the men's side, the "A" team (Robinson Simatei, Jamarious Jones, Alden Dixon and Shelton) claimed the final MT title in 10:37.91 as the "B" team (Keith Davis, Asa Bowman, Lyle Haywood and Ketter) finished second (10:40.01).

The Blue Raiders are back in action next weekend, Jan. 11-12, at the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky.

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