Blue Raiders head to Lexington for Kentucky Invitational

Athletes from 12 different schools will compete

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This Week...
Middle Tennessee will compete at the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky., on Friday and Saturday (Jan. 11-12). The event will be held at the E.J. Nutter Fieldhouse. Live streaming of the event can be found here, and results are available through ukathletics.com.

Competitors...
Participating teams this weekend include Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Louisville, the No. 11 ranked UCF women's squad, Eastern Kentucky, Florida A&M, Kentucky State, Marshall, Memphis, Miami (Fl.), and Kentucky.

Last time out...
Middle Tennessee competed in the Ed Temple Invitational in Nashville last Saturday. the Blue Raiders claimed six titles.

Adding to the trophy shelf...
After an impressive showing at the Ed Temple Invitational in Nashville on Saturday, Middle Tennesee's Cordairo Golden and Rosina Amenebede swept the first series of 2013 Sun Belt Conference Athlete of the Week awards. Golden won the men's triple jump (49-7 feet) and placed second in the men's long jump (23-11.50 feet) .Amenebede asserted herself at the top of the Sun Belt in the women's long jump after leaping 20.25 feet. Amenebede also competed in the women's 55 meter dash (third) and the women's 55 meter hurdles (ninth).

Picking up where she left off...
Ann Dudley earned a spot competing in the high jump at the NCAA Championships last year, and continued to prove herself by winning the Christmas Invitational with a jump of 1.78 meters (five feet,

10 inches). Dudley jumped 5-8 at the Ed Temple Invitational, the highest for a collegiate athlete at the event.

Strong Field...
MT claimed four of their six titles at the Ed Temple Invitational in field events. The Blue Raiders' champions were Rosina Amenebede (women's long jump), France Makabu (women's triple jump), Cordairo Golden (men's triple jump) and Ann Dudley, who tied for first in the women's high jump. MT also picked up titles in the men's and women's distance medley relay squads.

Still going strong...
After a successful cross country season, Rachel Islam clinched the women's 800 meter run at the early season MT Christmas Invitational, pacing the field in 2:17.58. Her cross country teammate, Tressanique Hampton, was second (2:18.75).

Jump Around...
The Blue Raiders have had nine different athletes compete in five seperate jumping events: men's and women's long jump, men's and women's triple jump and women's high jump. They have also claimed six individual titles in those events.

Back in action...
Middle Tennessee's Noah Akwu, who competed in the 2012 London Olympic Games, will return to action this Friday at the Kentucky Invitational. Akwu competed in the 200 meters for Nigeria.

Comments from the Coach...
Head Coach Dean Hayes said that because the event is a two-day meet, "it give us a little bit of what the Sun Belt meet is like." In addition, Hayes said the meet will be productive because "we have the whole team back after Christmas break, and we'll be able to start putting things together."

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