Blue Raiders provide solid showing on Day 1 of Kentucky Invitational

Amenebede wins women's long jump for second week in a row

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LEXINGTON, Ky. - Led by women's long jump champion Rosina Amenebede, Middle Tennessee's track and field squads put together a solid showing on day one of the Kentucky Invitational.

Amenebede, who earned Sun Belt female field athlete of the week honors after her victory at the Ed Temple Invitational in Nashville, was one of three MT athletes to compete in the long jump, joined by India Hammond and Pershawna Williams.

Amenebede hit her winning mark of 5.98 meters (19-7.50 feet) on her first attempt, and after a second jump of 5.84 meters, passed on her final three attempts to clinch the title. Hammond's leap of 5.37 meters (17-7.50 ft) earned her 15th place, while Williams was scratched from the event.

MT's men nearly copied Amenebede's success, placing three of the four jumpers in the top 10. Sun Belt male field athlete of the week Cordairo Golden was the highest Blue Raider finisher, earning fifth place with a distance of 7.05 meters (23-1.75 ft). Junior Cadet hit a season-long distance of 22-11.75 feet (7.00 meters) for seventh. Nigel Jones closed out the top 10 with his performance of 6.40 meters (21-0 ft). Kameron Rory did not score after fouling on his first three attempts.

Ann Dudley, who had won her past two high jump competitions, reached a height of 5-8.75 feet (1.75m), but failed to go any higher, scratching three times at 1.78 meters. Michelle Kinsella of Louisville and Brionne Williams each reached 1.81 meters to share the title.

On the men's side of the high jump, Golden competed in the event for the first time this season, succeeded at the opening mark of 1.85 meters (6-0.75 ft) but failed to hang with the leaders, scratching three times at 1.90.

The final two events of the night were the men and women's distance medley relay. MT's teams swept the titles last weekend, but failed to duplicate that success Friday.

The women's "A" squad, made up of Julia Kitevski, Rachel Islam, Autumn Gipson and Lucy Kapkiai improved their time (12:26.91) from last week, but finished eighth, nearly one minute behind the champion squad from Kentucky.

The men's "A" team, comprised of Robinson Simatei, Asa Bowman, Daniel Ketter and Alden Dixon finished in 10:19.11, but failed to compete for the lead.

The Kentucky Invitational continues tomorrow, and Blue Raider Olympian Noah Akwu will get his first chance to perform for MT this season. A complete schedule of events can be found here.

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