

Sun Belt Preview: Talking with Dean Hayes

Thoughts on the final Sun Belt Indoor meet...

“We’ll miss our time in the Sun Belt. We’ve had great relationships over the past 13 years with the coaches, teams and the conference office. We won the first four years of Sun Belt indoor competition, so we’d like to go out on top.”

Thoughts on women’s chance of winning...

“On the women’s side, it will likely be a pretty low scoring competition, which is good for us. It took us just 108 points to win last year, and I suspect the points total will be similar. There are four or five teams that have a good shot at the title: North Texas, FIU, Western, Arkansas State and us.”

Thoughts on men’s chance of winning...

“Arkansas State is definitely a favorite. It’s at their place, which is a big advantage, and they’ve had a great season. We’ll need people to put together solid performances and get us points if we want to have a chance.”

Women to watch...

Ann Dudley (High Jump)

“She was an All-American last year, and should be able to get us some points. If Ann can get us some points on the first day, that’ll be very helpful.”

Lucy Kapkiai (Distance runs)

“Lucy is the defending champ in the 5000 meter run, and got us 22 points in last year’s meet with her distance performances. She’ll be vital for us to have a chance.”

France Makabu (Triple Jump)

“France has had a great year and we’ll need her to score some points. She led the Sun Belt all year, so hopefully she’ll have a good day”

Rosina Amenebede (Long Jump, Hurdles and 55 meters)

“This is the last Sun Belt meet for ‘Rosie’ because she doesn’t have any outdoor eligibility left, and I think she’ll do well in hurdles and the long jump. She may be able to get us some points in the 55 meters as well.”

Men to watch...

Noah Akwu (Sprints)

“Noah will compete in both sprints (55 and 200 meters) and the mile relay this year after competing in the 400 meters last season.”

Cordairo Golden (Triple Jump, Long Jump and High Jump)

“Cordairo is from Memphis, so being closer to home will be fun for him. He’s done well in the triple and long jump this season, and will be a key contributor at this meet. Hopefully he can get us some points in the high jump as well.”

Shadrack Matelong (Distance)

“Shadrack will compete in three distance runs at the meet, and will hopefully have an impact similar to Justus David in years past. David gave us big points in distance runs, and I think Matelong can do the same.”

Key events for women and men...

“On the women’s side, the triple jump, long jump, hurdles and 800 meters will be important. For the men, the 800 meter, 400 meter and long jump will have a number of Middle Tennessee competitors, which gives us a good opportunity to rack up points.”