

## **SPC Track Sweeps Up Two More Team Titles and Eight Individual Championships**

May 23, 2009

HUTCHINSON, Kan. – The South Plains College men's and women's track and field teams added a sweep of the outdoor titles to go along with the indoor titles they won in March. The Lady Texans dominated the meet scoring 142.33 points to outdistance Barton County by 48.33 points. The team scoring was much closer on the men's side as they narrowly defeated Barton County by 4.5 points.

Heading into the third day of competition, both the Texans and Lady Texans were atop the team leader boards. The Texans took a 13-point lead into the final day with 56 points and the Lady Texans led by 25 ½ points with 57 points.

Colleen Felix, who had already finished second in the heptathlon and triple jump competitions, began the final day of competition with a bang for the Lady Texans by winning the women's javelin with a toss of 154-02.00. The mark also resets the school record she set yesterday while throwing the javelin as part of the heptathlon competition.

Kyron Blaise and Demarius Bell added five points to the Texan team score as they finished in fifth and ninth positions. Blaise posted a mark of 24-06.50, while Bell's best jump was 23-07.25. Dellon Williams just missed the award stand as he finished ninth.

Kia Wansley leaped to a season best 18-08.50 in the women's long jump to finish seventh. Shaneika McRae and Colleen Felix finished ninth and twelfth, respectively.

Wade Thornton and Demarius Bell both finished well enough to make a trip to the award stand in the men's high jump as Thornton cleared 6-08.75 for fourth and Bell cleared 6-06.75 to tie for seventh. Jordan Coffman, who finished second in the decathlon yesterday, cleared 6-04.75 for a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Marianne Wheeler and Shaneika McRae both cleared 5-03.00 in the women's high jump, however Wheeler was awarded sixth place and McRae seventh based on misses. Colleen Felix finished in a three way tie for eighth with a clearance of 5-01.00.

Melinda Bendik and Kelly Close each scored big in the women's hammer throw with Bendik tossing 160-05 for second place and Close finishing fourth with a throw of 155-02.

Edina Brooks, Shawna Anderson, Nicquel Thomas, and Allysha Wilson teamed up to earn eight points by placing second in the women's 4x100 meter relay in a time of 45.10 seconds which is also a season best.

Gladys Chumba crossed the line in fourth place in the final of the women's 1,500 meter run in a season best time of 4:42.86. Chumba would later add another fourth place finish in the women's 5,000 meter run when she finished the race in 18:20.37.

Fred Samoei ran 3:52.66 in the men's 1,500 meter run, which was good for fifth place in the event.

Samoei was not done as he came back an hour later to lead a trio of Texans in the men's 800 meter run, an event that got the Texans back into contention for the team title. Samoei won the event in a time of 1:49.57. Sharif Webb finished right behind in second place, crossing the line in 1:50.48 while Marcelis Lynch ran strong down the stretch to finish fifth in a time of 1:51.96. The three Texans combined for 22-points and after the event trailed rival Barton County by only 4 ½ points, 112-107 1/2.

Edina Brooks finished sixth in the women's 400 meter dash with a season best time of 54.57 seconds.

Latoy Williams ran an amazing race in the men's 400 meter dash as he outdueled Tabarie Henry of Barton County. Williams won the race in 44.73 seconds, breaking Jerome Young's NJCAA meet record of 44.86 seconds set in 1997. Williams' time is also the fourth fastest time run in the world this year and breaks Renny Quows school record. Calvin Dascent earned a point for the Texans by finishing eighth in a time of 48.12 seconds.

Bryce Brown ran 14.41 seconds in the men's 110 meter hurdles and crossed the line in sixth place.

Brown, however, came back 55 minutes later to dominate the field in the men's 400 meter hurdles, setting a new school record in the event with a time of 49.81 seconds to break the 50 second barrier for the first time this season. Stephon Beckford earned a point as he finished eighth in a time of 53.60 seconds.

Shawna Anderson and Nicquel Thomas teamed up to earn 10-points in the women's 100 meter dash. Anderson was second in the event and crossed the line in 11.65 seconds, while Thomas (11.91 seconds) was seventh.

Shakeeri Cole won the women's 800 meter run as she out ran New Mexico's Caroline Jepleting over the final 100 meters. Cole finished the race in 2:11.98. Lorianne Pattee (2:19.37) finished seventh.

In the women's 200 meter dash, Shawna Anderson finished fifth with a time of 24.00 seconds.

Rodney Campbell earned a point for the Texans in the men's 200 meter dash as he finished eighth in a time of 21.37 seconds. After the event, which was the 20<sup>th</sup> event scored, South Plains trailed Barton County by 2 ½ points, 122-119.50.

Trailing by 2.5 points, the Texans needed a big showing in the 5,000-meter run to regain control of the team standing and Texan distance runners Fred Samoei and Tallam Kipruto did not disappoint as they came through with nine points. Samoei (14:56.71) finished third while Kipruto (15:06.98) crossed the line sixth. Barton County did not have any athletes in the race and the Texans took a 6 ½ point lead going into the final event of the day.

Entering the women's 4x400 meter relay, the Lady Texans had the team title wrapped up and were running to add another championship to the list of accomplishments. The team of Angelle Miranda, Shakeeri Cole, Deandra Knowles, and Edina Brooks were unable to win the title, but they finished second in a school record time of 3:38.46, breaking the previous record set by the same four athletes by nearly 3-seconds.

Assuming Barton County could win the 4x400 meter relay, which they did at the indoor championships, the Texans knew they had to finish no worse than fifth to win the title. Sharif Webb ran the leadoff leg and put SPC in good position as he handed off to Latoy Williams in second place. Williams, who earlier won the 400 meter dash in meet record time, put the Texans in the lead as he handed the baton to Rodney Campbell. Campbell maintained the lead and gave the baton to Marcelis Lynch who was unable to hold off Barton's anchor leg, but crossed the line in second place to secure the team championship. The Texans completed the relay in 3:06.78.

At the NJCAA Championships, the Texans and Lady Texans attained two meet records, and four school records. They also claimed eight individual championships, eleven runner-up finishes, and two third-place finishes.

Winning championships for the Texans were: Kyron Blaise (triple jump), Latoy Williams (400 meter dash in a meet and school record time of 44.73 seconds), Fred Samoei (800), Bryce Brown (400 hurdles in a school record time of 49.81 seconds). For the Lady Texans: Kelly Crosse (shot put in a meet record of 52-08.25), Collen Felix (javelin in a school record of 154-02), Kelsey Wilson (pole vault), Shakeeri Cole (800).

Runner-up finishes: Dellon Williams (triple jump), Sharif Webb (800), Tallam Kipruto (3,000 meter steeplechase), Jordan Coffman (decathlon), 4x400 meter relay (Sharif Webb, Latoy Williams, Rodney Campbell, Marcelis Lynch), Melinda Bendik (hammer throw), Colleen Felix (triple jump and heptathlon in a school record of 5,178 points), Shawna Anderson (100 meters), 4x100 relay (Edina Brooks, Shawna Anderson, Nicquel Thomas, Allysha Wilson), 4x400 relay (Allysha Wilson, Shakeeri Cole, Deandra Knowles, Edina Brooks).

Third place finishers: Fred Samoei (1,500 meters), Kia Wansley (triple jump).

The championships wrap up a very successful year for head track and field coach Chris Beene's teams. Beene is responsible for men's and women's cross country, half-marathon, indoor track, and outdoor track. Of the eight possible championships his teams compete at, they won five (men's half-marathon, men's and women's indoor track, and men's and women's outdoor track).