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Texans and Lady Texans sweep in Hutch for third consecutive year

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HUTCHINSON, Kan. – The 2011 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) track and field championships marked the third consecutive year the city of Hutchinson played host to the event and for the third consecutive year the South Plains College Texans and Lady Texans swept both men's and women's team championships. This marks the fourth consecutive year the Texans have won the title outright and fifth consecutive including their tie with Central Arizona in 2008. The Lady Texans are now three-time defending champions.

The SPC women entered the final day of the championships with a four point lead and did not wait long to put the team title out of reach as they added nine more individual and a relay title to bring their overall number to 13 for the weekend and easily outdistance their nearest competitors by 84 points with a total team score of 197 ½ points.

Unlike the women's race, the men's team title went down to the final event and the Texans ultimately came away with top honors behind two individual championships and top honors in both 4x100 and 4x400 meter relays to win by a slim three point margin with 132 points.

Amethyst Boyd and Keri Emanuel helped jumpstart things for the Lady Texans in the first events of the day, the javelin and long jump.

Boyd easily topped the javelin field with a throw of 147-feet, 8-inches to win by more than seven feet.

Emanuel took top honors in a talented long jump field and just missed her season best in the process when she had a best leap of 20-01.75. Erynn Young helped the Lady Texan scoring effort with fifth place leap of 18-10.75.

Young later competed in and had a good day in the women's high jump with a season best clearance of 5-07. The clearance was the best in the field by two inches and the event was huge for SPC as teammate Chasity Mims (5-05) finished second and Kristian Spencer (5-03) tied for fifth.

Lisa Forsberg won the first track race of the day for the Lady Texans in the 1,500 meter run. Entering with the top time, Forsberg quickly jumped to the lead and ultimately crossed the line with a time of 4:48.34.

Natoya Goule won the first of two individual titles by leading teammates Sparkle



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McKnight and Amoy Blake to a 1-3-5 finish. Goule's winning time of 52.45 seconds also set a Gowan's Stadium record, while McKnight ran a season best time of 53.52 seconds for third. Blake (5th) finished with a time of 54.44 seconds.

Just over an hour later, Goule set another stadium record on her way to winning her fourth NJCAA individual title of her young career in the women's 800 meter run. Goule's winning time of 2:08.10 broke the stadium record previously held by former Lady Texan Shakeeri Cole. The 800 meter championship marked Goule's fourth individual title of the 2011 indoor and outdoor season.

Forsberg, who finished second in the 800 meter run last year, finished fourth with a time of 2:13.88. Tiffany Matthews (2:16.33) added a seventh place finish for SPC.

Sophomore Jura Levy successfully defended her championships in the women's 100 and 200 meter dashes. Levy ran away with the shorter race with a season best and school record time of 11.06 seconds and later dominated the 200 with another school and stadium record time of 22.76 seconds. Levy will finish her Lady Texan career with six individual national titles.

Freshman Shana-Gaye Tracey earned an NJCAA championship in the women's 400 meter hurdles by knocking off defending champion, teammate Chante'sean White. Tracey and White were running neck-and-neck as they rounded the final curve, but Tracey was able to take advantage when White hit a hurdle. Tracey won with a time of 58.96 seconds, while White recovered for second with a time of 1:00.35.

In the men's 400 meter hurdle race, Isaiah Gill and Stephen Emere each earned all-American honors with second and third place finishes. Gill overtook his teammate on the homestretch to finish with a time of 51.40 seconds, while Emere was hot on his heels with a season best time of 51.63 seconds.

Rondell Bartholomew won the first of his three NJCAA titles when he anchored the men's 4x100 meter relay team consisting of Bralon Taplin, John Thomas, and Niko Williams-Richey to a championship time of 40.58 seconds.

The women's 4x100 meter relay team of Abreanna Parker, Blake, McKnight, and Levy came up just short of defending their 2010 crown when they finished second, crossing the line in 45.03 seconds.

Bartholomew later led Taplin to a sweep of the top two spots in the men's 400 meter dash when the duo recorded times of 46.65 and 46.79 seconds, respectively, and then placed third in the 200 meter dash with a season best time of 20.48 seconds. The time broke Renny Quow's 2008 school record.



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After finishing second place in the men's 1,500 meter run (3:50.84), Kemoy Campbell returned with little recovery to win the men's 800 meter run, crossing the line in 1:50.32. Teammate Shevaun Marsh (1:52.59) finished fourth with a season best time.

An hour later, Campbell ran his third and quite possibly his most important race of the day, the 5,000 meter run. With his team down three points for the team title, Campbell (15:28.64) gutted out a second place finish to keep the Texans in the hunt heading into the final event of the day, the 4x400 meter relay.

Both teams capped successful days with championships in the men's and women's 4x400 meter relays.

The Lady Texan quartet of Blake, McKnight, Levy, and Goule easily pulled away from the field and finished with a Gowan's Stadium record time of 3:35.00.

With the team title on the line, the Texan 4x400 meter relay team of Taplin, Gill, Kourt'ney Payne, and Bartholomew jumped out to an early lead they would never relinquish and would ultimately win in 3:07.54. Down six points entering the final event of the meet, the relay victory helped seal the deal as their nearest competitor in the team race finished eighth to earn only a single point to end the day with SPC winning 132-129.

Lady Texans Goule and Levy were named the most outstanding female track athletes of the meet for their efforts. Additionally, head coach Chris Beene was named Coach of the Meet for both men and women. Levy finishes her career as a Lady Texan as a 10-time NJCAA champion including relay events. Goule is on her way to matching that title after six NJCAA titles during her freshman year.

The 2011 NJCAA track and field championships mark the end of a successful season in which the Lady Texans also claimed the indoor title. The teams will enjoy a restful summer before gearing up for cross country season in the fall.

Lady Texan NJCAA Champions (1st team All-Americans)

Amethyst Boyd	Javelin
Keri Emanuel	Long Jump
Lisa Forsberg	1,500 Meters
Natoya Goule	400, 800, 4x400 Relay
Jura Levy	100, 200, 4x400 Relay
Shana-Gaye Tracey	400 Hurdles
Erynn Young	High Jump
Victoria Flemons	Triple Jump
Jessica Ramsey	Shot Put



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Kadian Dunkley 3,000 meter steeplechase
Amoy Blake 4x400 Relay
Sparkle McKnight 4x400 Relay

Texan NJCAA Champions (1st team All-Americans)

Rondell Bartholomew 400, 4x100 Relay, 4x400 Relay
Kemoy Campbell 800
Bralon Taplin 4x100 Relay, 4x400 Relay
John Thomas 4x100 Relay
Niko Williams-Richey 4x100 Relay
Isaiah Gill 4x400 Relay
Kourt'ney Payne 4x400 Relay

Lady Texan NJCAA Runner-ups (2nd team All-Americans)

Chante'sean White 400 Hurdles
Chasity Mims High Jump
Abreanna Parker 4x100 Relay
Amoy Blake 4x100 Relay
Sparkle McKnight 4x100 Relay
Jura Levy 4x100 Relay

Texan NJCAA Runner-ups (2nd team All-Americans)

Kemoy Campbell 1,500 meters, 5,000 meters
Bralon Taplin 400 meters
Isaiah Gill 400 Hurdles
Stephen Emere Triple Jump

Lady Texan 3rd team All-Americans

Sparkle McKnight 400 meters

Texan 3rd team All-Americans

Stephen Emere 400 hurdles
Rondell Bartholomew 200 meters