

« Sports

Milligan sends seven to nationals

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By Staff Reports



Milligan College will continue its streak of being represented on the national level when seven members compete in the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Marion, Ind.

The nationals begin today and conclude Saturday at the Outdoor Sports Complex on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Buffaloes will see seven athletes, four of which are underclassmen, compete in five events. Leading the stampede will be lone senior Chelsea Leavell in the shot put. Leavell qualified for nationals with a throw of 13.22 meters during the Appalachian Athletic Conference meet, an AAC record. That throw will seed her 17th.

Sophomore Yolanda Migoyo will compete in the women's 400 meters. Migoyo also qualified during the AAC conference meet with a conference record of 57.18. Migoyo has set three school marks, and finished ninth in the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships in the same event.

A pair of first time qualifiers will represent the Buffaloes in the women's marathon. Daniel Boone alumnus Danielle Mitchell (1:30:33) and former Elizabethton runner Janey Robinson (1:32:46) qualified for the event during the Strawberry Plains Half-Marathon.

Austin Ellis will compete in the men's marathon. The junior set a school record (1:11:33) during the Strawberry Plains Half-Marathon. Ellis will be seeded 14th of the 74 participants.

Junior Tanner Payne will compete in the discus. Payne shattered the school record in tough weather conditions to qualify at the Liberty Invitational with a throw of 47.20 meters.

Newcomer Kevin Mowatt will compete in the 100 meters. Mowatt qualified in the Buffaloes' final meet of the season with a school record (10.68) during the Orange and Purple Classic at Clemson.

The Buffaloes are coming off one of the most impressive seasons in program history as both the men and women captured their first AAC outdoor titles. Members of the squad set 13 school records and claimed 12 individual conference titles.

Chris Layne was named the conference coach of the year.

Milligan also had several members narrowly miss qualifying for nationals. Lauren Hubbard missed the mark by nine seconds in the women's 1500 meters and Fitzroy Harris missed the qualifying mark in the men's 400 by .19 seconds. Ellis was two seconds away from qualifying in the men's 5K during the last weekend of the season.

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