

Milligan Sending Seven to NAIA Track & Field Nationals

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MILLIGAN COLLEGE, TN --- The Milligan College track and field program will continue its streak of being represented on the national level as they will send seven members to the 2011 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Marion, Ind., on May 26-28. The Buffaloes have been represented at every outdoor national championship.

The Buffaloes will see seven athletes, four of which are underclassmen, compete in five events. Leading the stampede will be lone senior Chelsea Leavell (Springfield, Tenn.) in the women's shot put. Leavell qualified for nationals with a throw of 13.22-meters during the 2011 AAC conference meet, a new school and AAC record. That throw will seed her 17th in the strong field.

Sophomore Yolanda Migoyo (Kissimmee, Fla.) looks to build off the success she had during the season as she will compete in the women's 400-meter. Migoyo also qualified during the AAC conference meet with a new school record and conference record of 57.18. So far this season, Migoyo has set three school marks, and finished ninth in the 2011 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. Former Daniel Boone standout Danielle Mitchell (Johnson City, Tenn.) and former Elizabethton runner Janey Robinson (Elizabethton, Tenn.) qualified for the event during the Strawberry Plains Half-Marathon. Mitchell recorded a time of 1:30:33, while Robinson ran the course in a time of 1:32:46.

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

Tanner Payne (Georgetown, Tenn.) represents the junior class as he will compete in the men's discus throw. Payne shattered the school record in tough weather conditions to qualify at the Liberty Invitational with a throw of 47.20-meters.

Milligan newcomer Kevin Mowatt (Montego Bay, Jamaica) will compete in the men's 100-meter dash. Mowatt qualified in the Buffaloes' final meet of the season with a school record time of 10.68 during the Orange and Purple Classic hosted by Clemson University. The freshman bettered the school record four times during the season en route to qualifying for the national championships.

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. Layne was named the conference coach of the year.

Milligan also saw several young members narrowly miss qualifying for nationals as Lauren Hubbard (Kingsport, Tenn.) missed the mark by nine seconds in the women's 1500-meters and Fitzroy Harris (Jamaica) missed the qualifying mark in the men's 400-meter by .19 seconds. Ellis was two seconds away from qualifying in the men's 5K during the last