

Track and field team finishes strong at Western

By Phillip Amos
STAFF WRITER
PMAMOS@UNCA.EDU

UNC Asheville senior sprinter Natalie Pearson dominated the 100 and 200 meter races, winning both at the Beynon Sports Surfaces Catamount Classic held at Western Carolina.

"Natalie ran two amazing races this weekend. She has been the best example of how dedicating yourself to your training will always pay off, and I feel like the rest of the team has looked up to her work ethic," junior Simon Haake said.

Both the men's and women's track teams finished well, but the women gained the most success on the day. The women's team placed in the top-five in eight events.

Senior Corrie Trotter finished second in the high jump with a leap of 1.50 meters.

In the javelin, freshman Ashlei Clodfelter placed second with a throw of 36.29 meters. She also took 10th in the discus with a distance of 34.28 meters.

"The meet overall went really good because it was one of the smaller meets we went to, and so everyone was really competitive, which showed in their performances," Pearson said. "I was really happy with my races, as they were both really comfortable wins."

Freshman Alyska Kalmeijer took fifth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:22, followed by Katie Olert, who came in 11th at 2:30. Freshman Kylie Smith placed sixth in the 1500 meters at a time of 5:12. Whitney Stafford finished fourth in the 400 hurdles at 1:06 and then took seventh in the 100 hurdles at a time of 15.68.

For the first time this season, the women reached the baton round in the 4x100 meter relay, which was made up of Eureka Jones, Sarah Gentry, Pearson and Clodfelter.

"There were quite a few highlights from the meet yesterday. One of these was the women's 400 meter relay team. These girls did an amazing job getting around the track," Trotter said. "They had smooth handoffs and had a great time."

Stafford finished fourth in the 400 hurdles at 1:06 and then took seventh in the 100 hurdles at a time of 15.68.



Rebekah Pineda - Contributing Photographer

Top, Raymond Urrutia and Jordan Yarbrough sprint to the finish line. Jeremy Harn slings the shot put during his competition at Western as judges watch his throw.

In the 400 meters, Gentry came in fifth at 58.96 and Jones finished right behind her, placing seventh with a time of 1:00.30.

Rachel Ambrosia took 11th in the 5000 meters with a time of 20:38 and Erin Putnam placed 13th with a time of 21:11.

Collectively, the men's team yielded their best results so far this season in the 800-meter race, placing three

runners in the top eight.

Sam Maynard placed third at 1:53.56, followed closely by Eliud Chirchir in fourth at 1:53.57. Carlos Lopez finished eighth at 1:58 and Chris Murray finished 17th with a time of 2:05.

"Ian and Simon deserve a big mention as always because they did like four events each, definitely hard to do. Sam and Eli also both had exciting 800 meter races," Pearson said.

Kent Rankin finished 10th in the 1500 meters at 4:10, and Adam Schnapp took 18th at 4:15. Raymond Urrutia placed 10th in the 200 meters with a time of 21.90, and he also finished 14th in the 400 meters at 51.23.

"The whole team is starting to show how much stronger we are than last year, and other teams in the conference are noticing that we're in contention in many different events," Haake said.

Billy Enright led the way in the field events with a sixth-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 49.34 meters. Haake finished seventh in the high jump 1.68 meters, and 10th in the shot put with a throw of 12.62 meters.

"Simon Haake, in the past, has only been a javelin thrower, but this year Simon has decided that he would like to try the decathlon," Trotter said. "He is really dedicated and deserves some recognition for all his hard work and his willingness to try new events."

The men's and women's track and field teams return to action this weekend at the Duke Relays.

Liberty edges by Bulldogs with 4-3 win

By Jeremiah Reed
STAFF WRITER
JUREED@UNCA.EDU

Despite picking up victories in two of the last three singles matches of the day, the UNC Asheville men's tennis team lost in three straight doubles matches and dropped an agonizing 4-3 defeat when they visited the Liberty Flames on Saturday.

"It's a little bit of a microcosm of how we've been all season," Head Coach Lise Gregory said. "We haven't all been able to put it together at the same time. For us to have the success that we're capable of having, we all need to be solid."

The Bulldogs exhibited good form during singles action and avoided looking rusty after weather sidelined the team for more than a week.

Nicolai Nonnebroich gave UNCA a good start, picking up a straight sets victory over Sim Tuss in the first singles match of the day, 6-4, 6-3. The win gave Nonnebroich his team-high sixth singles victory of the season.

After dropping the next two singles matches, Bulldog freshman Adrien Langeard, who saw his first court time since suffering an injury on March 7, picked up a victory for his team by winning in straight sets over Chad Simpson, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

Langeard said he is not back to 100 percent but he's glad to be on the court again and still feels that he can pick up victories for his team.

"I'm not perfectly healthy, but I feel really confident that I can win all my matches at the No. 3 spot," he said.

UNCA equalized the score 3-3 after Thomas Rees won the final singles match of the afternoon, downing Benjamin Wirth in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3.

This was the last victory the Bulldogs would see. All three doubles teams suffered defeat, giving the deciding final point to Liberty.

The top two Bulldogs doubles