

INDOOR TRACK NATIONALS

Is this a St. Aug's dynasty or what?

The fact that St. Augustine's men's team was such an overwhelming factor at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships was hardly a surprise. The SAC men won national titles in six different events, including all of the jumping events.

This was the fifth straight indoor crown for the Falcons, who blasted all comers, winning the team title by 62 points.

The Falcons soared above and far beyond everything in sight. By meet's end, they had accumulated 98 points. Southeast Missouri State was a very distant second with 36 points. Hampton University was the only other black college team to finish among the top ten. The Pirates finished with 17 points which was good enough for sixth place in the team standings.

In the women's competition, Abeline Christian won the team title with 72 points. But the black colleges didn't fare badly, with three teams finishing among the top five.

St. Augustine's led the black college contingent with a second place finish (28 points). Hampton University finished in a two-way tie with Southeast Missouri State for third place (26 points each), while Norfolk State was fifth with 23 points.

Here's a review of the action at the championships, which were held at the University of South Dakota's Dakotadome at Vermillion, SD.

MEN'S COMPETITION

Sprints/hurdles/relays -- The Falcons flew to greater heights by winning the hurdles, 400 and the 4 x 400 relay.

Charles Johnson got sweet revenge in taking the 55 hurdles in 7.23, besting second place Wendell Edwards of Abeline Christian who clocked 7.27. Johnson, who is the two-time outdoor hurdles champ, finished a disappointing fifth at last year's indoor nationals.

In the 400, Antonio Pettigrew was the creme de la creme, crossing the finish line in 47.43. Southeast Missouri State's Terrence Branch (47.74) made a strong effort to come through at the end, but it wasn't enough. Duane Johnson, another Falcon was third at 48.26 while Hampton's Johnnie Barnes, the defending outdoor 400 champ, placed fourth at 48.64.

Kenneth Brokenburr, didn't fare quite as well in the 55 meters as the defending champion. Going into the race, folks figured it would be a rematch between Brokenburr and Hampton's Terrence Warren. Brokenburr won that round last winter and Warren got even by winning the outdoor 200 last May.

This time, however, Wayne Watson of New York Tech upset the order of finish, streaking home in 6.30 to Brokenburr's 6.31. Warren finished fourth at 6.38.

Pettigrew and his SAC mates encountered few problems in breezing to first place in the 4 x 400 (3:15.67), winning by more than a second over Southeast Missouri State (3:16.39). Pettigrew teamed with Fitzroy

Indoor Track All-Americans

MEN

St. Augustine's
 Mark Mason — long jump*
 Keith Holley — long jump, triple jump*
 Jeffrey Gary — long jump
 Darrin Moore — high jump*
 Ian Thompson — high jump
 Charles Johnson — hurdles*
 Kenneth Brokenburr — 55 meters, 4 x 400 relay+
 Cedric Jackson — 55 meters
 Antonio Pettigrew — 400 meters*, 4 x 400 relay+
 Duane Johnson — 400 meters, 4 x 400 relay+
 Tracey Johnson — triple jump
 Fitzroy Morrison — 4 x 400 relay+
 Hampton
 Leslie Hogan — long jump
 Thomas Brown — long jump, triple jump
 Terrence Warren — 55 meters
 Johnnie Barnes — 400 meters
 North Carolina Central
 Brian Gore — high jump
 Norfolk State
 Marvin Ficks — hurdles
 John Davenport — 400 meters, 4 x 400 relay
 Harold McCants — 400 meters, 4 x 400 relay
 Spencer Jamison — 4 x 400 relay
 Aaron Ledbetter — 4 x 400 relay
 Lincoln University
 Stephen Donaldson — 4 x 400 relay
 Livingston Harriott — 4 x 400 relay
 Reginald McGray — 4 x 400 relay
 Donovan Rowe — 4 x 400 relay

WOMEN

St. Augustine's
 Cynthia Badgett — long jump*
 Irish Holmes — long jump, triple jump*
 Norfolk State
 Angela Williams — long jump, triple jump
 Judith Lawrence — 55 meters, 400 meters, 4 x 400 relay
 Carlene Robb — 55 meters, 4 x 400 relay
 Chandra Johnson — shot put
 Chantelle Evans — 4 x 400 relay
 Robin Turner — 4 x 400 relay
 Hampton
 Melleasenah Williams — hurdles
 Jeannet Pusey — 55 meters
 Christiane Zeze — 400 meters
 Lola Ajayi — 800 meters*
 University of the District of Columbia
 Patrice Irby — hurdles
 Tracey Oaks — 55 meters, 400 meters
 Virginia State
 Chelsea Wicks — triple jump
 Lincoln University
 Kimberly Crawford — shot put

All-America status is earned by finishing among the top eight in each event.

* National champion

+ National relay champion

Morrison, Brokenburr and Duane Johnson to wrap up the Falcons' team victory. Norfolk State (Harold McCants, John Davenport, Spencer Jamison and Aaron Ledbetter) ran a 3:17.86 to take third place in that relay.

Jumping events -- St. Aug's left a lot of people in a daze on the track. But in the jumping events, they ruled completely.

In the long jump, for example, Mark Mason led a trio of SAC jumpers, winning in 24-11 to outdistance teammate Keith Holley who was second at 24-5 1/2. Jeffrey

Gary grabbed the No. 3 spot with a leap of 24-0 1/4.

Darrin Moore earned another first-place finish for the Falcons by maintaining his composure and form to win the high jump with a 7-1 1/2. Moore was last year's indoor runner-up.

The competition in this event was very competitive. Only 1 1/4 inches separated the top four jumpers. The jumpers finishing behind Moore all had jumps of 7-0 1/4, but the final outcome of how they placed was

determined by fewer misses. Abeline Christian's Mike Greer was second and St. Aug's Ian Thompson finished third.

Holley showed his mettle by placing second in the long jump, but he took things to another level by winning the triple jump hands down at 52-5 1/2. Hampton's Thomas Brown was his closest competitor at 49-7. SAC's Tracey Johnson was fourth in this event (48-8).

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

Black college women captured three individual national titles, one in the middle distance runs, the other two in the sprints. Meanwhile, there were some other notable performances that saw black collegians finish among the top four in their respective events. Here's what transpired.

On the oval -- Hampton's Lola Ajayi emerged as the eventual victor in a highly competitive 800 meters. Ajayi had enough stamina left at the end to win in 2:11.02, edging Marlene Wilcox of California State - Los Angeles, who clocked 2:11.07.

In the 55 meters, four black collegians finished among the final eight. Jeannet Pusey of Hampton placed second (7.10) and Norfolk State's Judith Lawrence was fourth with a 7.19. Additionally, Lawrence captured third place in the 400 meters (56.93).

Hampton's Melleasenah Williams entered the finals of the 55 meter hurdles as the defending champ from '90 who figured to repeat. But it just wasn't to be. Williams finished third (8.17), missing second place by fractions of a second (Abeline Christian's Chelsa Lancaster was No. 2 at 8.09). Lancaster's teammate Sylvia Dyer proved to be totally dominant, winning in 7.99. Patrice Irby, University of the District of Columbia, finished fourth (8.22).

Norfolk State's 4 x 400 relay team came through with an All-American performance, finishing fourth in 3:54.11. Chantelle Evans, Carlene Robb, Robin Turner and Lawrence comprised the NSU quartet.

Field events -- The jumping events were the highlight of the meet for black college women. In the long jump, St. Augustine's finished 1-2, thanks to Cynthia Badgett and Irish Holmes.

For Badgett, her crown remained in tact as the two-time champ. She won with a leap of 20-1 3/4. Holmes jumped 19-2 1/4.

Holmes, however, came back to garner a title of her own in dominating the triple jump, winning with a 41-3 3/4. Norfolk State's Angela Williams, who barely missed out on second place by a little over two inches, finished third in the competition at 40-7.

The shot put turned out to be a two-way battle for supremacy between Saginaw Valley State's Sue Breternitz and Lincoln University's Kimberly Sanford. This duel was decided by less than three inches. Breternitz won in 48-0 3/4 to Sanford's 47-9 1/4. Chandra Johnson of Norfolk State finished fifth at 45-3.

— Dan Wesley