DIVISION III TRACK

Lions win six titles at outdoor nationals

Lincoln University had designs on successfully defending its men's team title at this year's NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships last month. But Wisconsin-La Crosse had too much depth and the Lions finished in second place, nine points behind WLA, who tallied 73 points to claim the crown.

The men won two individual events plus both relays in their quest to add another national championship trophy to their trophy case.

In women's competition, the Lady Lions made their presence felt with a fifth-pace finish in the final team standings. Lincoln won national titles in two events.

When it was all over, Lincoln's teams had won six national titles and had 14 athletes earn All-America honors. Athletes make All-America by finishing among the top eight in the finals of each event.

Here's a recap of the action at last month's championships held at Baldwin-Wallace College (Ohio). Men's Events

While the team title slipped away from the Lions, they did make some noise on the oval, winning two individual events and both relays. Clive Terrelonge emerged as a double winner in the 400 and 800.

In the two-lap race, Terrelonge won comfortably at 1:47.56, setting a new national record in the process. Terrelonge broke the previous mark of 1:49.30, set in '85 by Max Harn of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. This race was never really in doubt. Terrelonge's closest challenger was second-place finisher Howard Seller of Albany (NY) who clocked 1:50.28.

The 400, however, was more closely contested. Terrelonge hit the tape at 47.28 to win his duel with Mike Kelly of Simpson coming in second at 47.69.

Lincoln's hope to capture the 100 rested on the shoulders of Brandon Jones and Jones gave it his best shot. Jones battled Frostburg State's Jermaine McDougal from start to finish. But in the end, McDougal prevailed with a 10.78 while Jones finished second at 10.83.

The Lions picked up additional points with two people placing in the 110 high hurdles. Mark Whitsett was the highest finisher (fourth at 14.56), followed by Shannon Flowers (sixth at 14.82). Keith Falconer placed sixth in the 400 intermediate hurdles (53.59) and Lincoln Townsend contributed an eighth place finish in the 200 (22.17) to add to LU's total.

But when it came to the relays, the Lions roared to victories on both occasions. But in neither race did they win by a substantial margin.

In the 4 x 100, handy stickwork by Jones, Townsend, Shawn Clements and Jerome Johnson, enabled the Lions to win in 41.05. Wisconsin-La Crosse stayed right in the hunt, but LU kept them at a distance. WLA placed second at 41.26.

The 4 x 400 held more of the same thrills, especially toward the late stages of the race. Lincoln (Rodney Moore, Townsend, Falconer and Terrelonge) won the battle over North Central. The Lions

foursome clocked 3:10.47 and North Central was No. 2 at 3:11.96.

Women's Events

Lincoln's ladies emerged as the No. 5 team in the final standings with 35 points thanks to a very credible showing in the sprints.

Alondra Woodard led the way by winning the 100 in 12.45, besting Principia's Ngozi Mwanamwambwa by a half-step at the finish line (12.51). Woodard also placed fourth in the 200 (25.70) and teammate Annette Gray came in sixth with a 25.99.

Gray's best performance came in the 400, finishing third in 56.24, while teammate Marissa Crossan placed eighth (57.38).

The Lady Lions captured their second national title by nipping Christian Newport in the 4 x 100 relay. Woodard, Indria Acker, Jackie Pigford and Gray covered the distance in 47.88 to beat Christian Newport (47.93) by less than a stride.

- Chris Webb

Lions' Track All-Americans

33.

WOMEN

Alondra Woodard - 100*, 200, 4 x 100 relay*
Annette Gray - 200, 400, 4 x 100 relay*
Marissa Crossan - 400
Indria Acker - 4 x 100 relay*
Jackie Pigford - 4 x 100 relay*

* National champions.
All-America status earned by finishing among top eight in each event.



Shawn Clements helped the Lions prevail in the 4 x 100 relay at the national championships last month.