

Sixteen qualify for nationals

Track team takes 10 events to Tennessee

By Korie Hawkins
Staff reporter

Indoor Track has this week off to prepare for nationals and the team's first outdoor track meet this season.

For the women's team the qualifiers for nationals are Sarah Morton, triple jump, Ericka Franklin, 3000 meter run, Kari Roth, high jump, Audry Anderson, Amy Pierson, Brae Johnson, Jordan Unruh, 4x800 meter relay, and Audry Anderson, Nicole Shidler, Amy Pierson, and Ericka Franklin, distance medley relay.

The men include Charles Wells, 60 meter dash, Cody Annis, 400 meter run, Andrew Topham, 5000 meter run, Brandon Hessing, triple jump, and Aric Cherry, Jimmy Bryant, Bryce Johnson, and Daniel Joiner, 4x800 meter relay.

Nationals will be March 6-8 in Johnson City, Tenn. The first outdoor meet will be the SC Invitational March 13.

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Women

60 meter dash—1, Nique Wallace, 8.04, Ashley Robinson, 8.16, Valarie Hart, 8.38

200 meter dash—1, Nique Wallace, 26.96, Ashley Robinson, 27.25, Valarie Hart, 27.95

400 meter run—1, Eva Sanders, 68.13

600 meter run—1, Nicole Shidler, 1:36.26

800 meter run—1, Amy Pierson, 2:33.23, Brae Johnson, 2:33.57, Alyssa Carter, 2:42.14, Jordan Unruh, DNF

Mile run—1, Brae Johnson, 5:27.41, Alyssa Carter, 5:57.14

3000 meter run—1, Ericka Franklin, 10:45.16, Audry Anderson, 10:57.23, Kate Topham, 11:07.50, Ame Walter, 13:07.18

Distance medley relay—1, Audry Anderson, Nicole Shidler, Amy Pierson, Ericka Franklin, 12:44.23

4x400 relay—1, Amy Pierson, Brae Johnson, Eva Sanders, Alyssa Carter, 4:35.00

Triple jump—1, Sarah Morton, 36-11 ¾, Paige Carswell, 34-4 ¼

High jump—1, Kari Roth, 5-3

Shot put—1, Kelli Bunnel, 33-6 ½

20 # weight—1, Kelli Bunnel, 41-4, Lacey Hibbs, 37-11 ½

Men

60 meter dash—1, Charles Wells, 6.95, Davion Mitchell, 7.08, Wayne Trimmell, 7.45, Deleon Freeman, 7.51

200 meter dash—1, Davion Mitchell, 23.35, Wayne Trimmell, 23.70, Kyle Larsen, 23.81, Deleon Freeman, 24.36, Jeremiah Roberts, 25.63

400 meter run—1, Cody Annis, 51.10, Matt Perkins, 52.55, Kyle Larsen, 56.13, Jeremiah Roberts, 57.24

600 meter run—1, Bryce Johnson, 1:15.70

800 meter run—1, Aric Cherry, 1:56.65, Daniel Joiner, 2:02.41, Jimmy Bryant, 2:04.78, Tanner McNinch, 2:09.92

Mile run—1, Daniel Joiner, 4:31.16, Andrew Topham, 4:36.53, Jimmy Bryant, 4:37.98, Jess Eberle, 4:40.63, Zack Conroy, 4:49.19

3000 meter run—1, Andrew Topham, 9:03.43, Zack Conroy, 9:49.98, Daniel Kuhnen, 9:58.19, Kyle Luttgaharm, 10:06.28, Chase Kuchera, 10:15.76, Jordy Train, 10:27.20, Jess Eberle, DNF

4x400 relay—1, Cody Annis, Bryce Johnson, Matt Perkins, Aric Cherry, 3:25.35, Kyle Larsen, Tanner McNinch, Daniel Joiner, Jimmy Bryant, 3:44.06

Triple jump—1, Brandon Hessing, 44-6

High jump—1, Darius Hopkins, 5-10, Colby Segraves, 4-11 ¾

Pole vault—1, Cordairo Hansen, 12-11 ¾

Shot put—1, Dustin Gordon, 41-0 ½, Brandon Jackson, 40-2 ¾, Cordairo Hansen, 38-5 ½, Colby Segraves, 32-6 ¼

35 # weight—1, Alex Hutchins, 44-11, Brandon Jackson, 41-0 ½, Darrell Wilson, 40-5 ½, Nathan Morrison, 40-1 ½, Andrew McGee, 38-2 ¼, Dustin Gordon, 36-7 ¾



Sarah Morton/Collegian photographer

Ericka Franklin, biology junior, runs a leg in the distance medley relay Saturday at Kansas State University. The relay won the meet and qualified for nationals with a time of 12:44.23. The relay team is one of 10 events that the men's and women's track teams will take to the national meet March 6-8 in Johnson City, Tenn.

Tennis teams prepare for first match

By Cameron Siefkes
Staff reporter

Five practices in four weeks is not exactly the circumstances that the men's and women's tennis teams were hoping for this season, but they have been practicing as much as weather will permit.

The women's team will kick off their season this Friday at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City. The match

is a dual, which means they will only be competing against Southern Nazarene.

John Paulin, men's and women's coach, knows that this will be a tough match. He said, "It will be difficult for us because of the bad weather and we haven't been able to practice a lot. They are a strong team and they have been able to practice indoor since January."

Right now the women who will get to play in this match is

still being decided.

The men's team will compete in their first match March 13 at home. It will be a dual against Central Christian College. Paulin believes that this match will be difficult as well for the men, but they will have a bit more practice under their belts than the women's team. The men who will get to compete are also still undecided.

Last season both teams ended up with two wins and two losses.

Those scores will carry over into this season, but will not affect their standing in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, which as of right now has not been determined.

The goals for the women's team are simple.

"The bottom line is to do the best we can and be competitive in the KCAC and win the conference championship," said Paulin.

Lauren Pettey, business ad-

ministration senior, said, "My goal is to continue the winning tradition and add another regional championship to our record. I also would like to keep improving both our physical and mental game."

Paulin said, "For the men it is tough. We play teams that go to nationals so it is a rough schedule for the men."

Jeff Smith, physical education sophomore, said, "My goals for the team are to not give up no

matter what the score is, and just give 100 percent every match."

Goals for everyone will be improvement and keeping their love of the sport. Paulin said, "We need to keep sharpening our game and our playing ability. We also just want to enjoy and have fun and not get to where it is a tiresome thing."

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The proof is in the numbers, so is the pride



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There are seven minutes to go in the first half. Your team is in the middle of a nice little comeback. They've been down since the opening tip off, but thanks to a few forced turnovers they've trimmed the fat and the lead is down to four. A scramble for a loose ball results in yet another bucket, yet you really don't have any idea who put it through the hoop.

In the midst of any sport's poetry things tend to get a bit on the hectic side. When you put so many six and a half footers on the court and the lane is crowded you really don't know who is who. You'd be surprised at how alike some of the players look when their backs are toward the fans.

Thank God for numbers. It's not a thought you would commonly think of. No, we don't wait around after the game and talk about how great a guy's number is. But believe it or not the number an athlete wears on his or her jersey can be something they are fighting-proud

about.

Think back to the first time jerseys were handed out when you played. I can remember most going for 23. Everyone wanted to be like Michael Jordan. The closest anyone would actually get was to wear the same number as him. Say you don't like basketball? Well throw on a Brett Favre number four and you'll be fixed right up.

Who can forget the ones who always fell for the double numbers? I always failed to see why 55 and 22 were so popular. I didn't see the jazz in putting a palindrome on my back.

There was always the brave soul who went for 13. I was scared to even have that guy on my team, let alone wear the

jersey. Who would want to toy with the unluckiness that comes with such a number? Give me seven or 11 instead and we can go to Vegas while we're at it, but never would I roll the dice with such a historically hated number.

For me it was all about family though. The big bro had worn number 70 when he played, and I'll be damned if anyone not named Cook was going to wear it while I was playing, never mind the fact that by the time I got the shoulder pads underneath it I was more than filling it. When we were talking jersey numbers I would leave my normally self-conscious attitude behind.

You see it's all about protect-

ing something. No high school I know of, and very few colleges, put names on the back of jerseys. The number you get is all you get to protect. It's what you have to be proud about.

By the time many of these athletes reach this level they've been wearing that number for quite a few years. I'm certain many want to keep that number that they have established. Coca-Cola isn't going to let their name get changed because someone else applied for the patent. That would be like taking a dozen or so steps back.

It's the same situation with a number. Athletes prefer to keep the number attached to their body of work.

The more you think of it the

sillier it is, but it's just one of those things about sports that make them so unique. When you go to work you don't have a certain color tie that no one at the office can wear but you. That's ridiculous. You aren't going to be categorized by such a thing, but sometimes a number means just as much as anything else. It makes you different from the dozen or so others who are wearing the same uniform.

So laugh and shrug it off if you must, but you might want to remember the last time you participated in sports. You were probably stubborn enough to fight your grandma over it.

A number is a lot more than just decoration on your uniform.

Sports Column