

Seven L-R Athletes Earn All-Region Track Honors

Written by Staff Reports

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Seven members of the Lenoir-Rhyne Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field squads were named to the 2012-13 NCAA Division II All-Southeast Region Team.

The team is sponsored by the U.S. Track and Field & Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). The top five from each region in individual events and each member of a relay ranked in the region's top three earn all-region distinctions.

For Lenoir-Rhyne, six of the seven athletes were on the men's side including senior Justin McCombs (Newton, N.C.), who earned all-region honors in both the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes.

McCombs broke the school in the 200-meter dash (22.62) while redshirt freshman Kevin Baxter (Columbia, S.C.) garnered all-region accolades in the 60-meter hurdles.

Baxter's time in the 60-meter hurdles (a school-record 8.04 seconds) earned him a qualifying spot in the 2013 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championships in Birmingham, Ala., on March 6-9.

Other all-region honors on the men's side include sophomore Jarrod Spears (Bunnlevel, N.C.) in the 60-meter dash, junior Aaron Nelson (Mayodan, N.C.) in the pole vault, freshman Anthony Downs (Chapin, S.C.) in the shot put and freshman Victor Brannan (Powder Springs, Ga.) in the high jump.

Spears has the second-best time in school history (7.03 seconds) in the 60-meter dash while Nelson has the program mark in the pole vault at 13'2.5".

On the women's side, freshman Vertrice Wilson (Carrollton, Ga.) earned all-region honors in the 200-meter dash, an event she owns the school record in at 27.76 seconds.

A total of 1,061 student-athletes have earned a total of 1,574 USTFCCCA All-Region honors this year.

The Lenoir-Rhyne Men's and Women's Track and Field Teams open the outdoor season on Saturday when the squads host the PowerSox Invitational at the Irwin Belk Track at the Moretz Sports - Athletic Complex.

Photo Courtesy: Jarrod Spears, L-R Athletics