

Taylor Breaks 28-Year Old Record

Written by Ryan Bower
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Alex Taylor broke a 28-year old school record and Chris Moen set a new personal best in the 1,500-meter run to lead Appalachian State University men's track and field at the Virginia Challenge on Saturday. Taylor, who finished ninth with a

time of 3:42.29, broke the previous Appalachian record of 3:44.90 set by Todd Goeway in 1984. In fact, Taylor broke the record on the same track and on the same weekend in which Goeway set the previous record.

Moen set a new personal best in the event with a time of 3:50.05 to finish 29th and move him into eighth place in ASU history in the event. The Apps also sent a contingent of athletes to Atlanta for the Georgia Tech Invitational where several athletes turned in impressive performances.

Darius Purcell won the high jump event with a leap of 7'0.25" while teammate Daryl Saunders placed third on judge's decision with the same mark. Jamal Tiller churned out another stellar performance in the triple jump with a fifth-place showing and a mark of 49'7". Jared Stalling also placed fifth to pace Appalachian's throwers in the hammer throw with a toss of 174'8". In action at NC State on Sunday, the Mountaineers recorded four top-five finishes as Dennis Moore and Landon Powell finished first and second, respectively, in the 100-meter dash.

Moore clocked in with a time of 10.48 seconds while Powell ran the event in 10.72 seconds. AJ Dohanic placed fourth in the event at 11.00 seconds and was also fourth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.46 seconds. Stalling took fifth in the discus throw with a mark of 165'1" while ASU's 4x100-meter relay team of Powell, Dohanic, Moore and Justin Thomas notched a time of 40.66 seconds, less than one second behind the Appalachian State record.

On the women's side, Breanna Alston and Jasmine Suydam posted top performances as Appalachian State University women's track and field wrapped up its final weekend of action before the NCAA East Preliminaries. Alston finished first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.45 seconds at the NC State Last Chance Meet in Raleigh.

Cassie Crawford and Chelsea Farr also finished strong at NC State by finishing first and third, respectively, in the pole vault competition. Kristen Campbell took fourth in the 100-meter dash and the Apps' 4x100-meter relay team of Alston, Campbell, D'Shawnna McLucas and Shenita Martin finished in a time of 46.76 seconds. Suydam led the Mountaineers in action at the Georgia Tech Invitational by recording a fourth-place finish in the shot put (43'9.75").

The Apps also got a solid showing from Crawford on Saturday at Georgia Tech as she took ninth in the pole vault with a leap of 12'6.75". Gayshawna Watkins also posted a top-10 finish with an eighth-place showing in the discus (140'6).

The Mountaineers will now turn their attention towards the NCAA East Preliminaries, which take place in Jacksonville, Fla. from May 24-26.

Photo Courtesy: Alex Taylor, ASU Athletics