

## School-Record Mark Sends Relay Team to Nationals

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Appalachian State University men's track and field saw its 4x100-meter relay team break a school record and finish eighth overall to qualify for the 2012 NCAA Championships with an outstanding performance on Saturday at the NCAA East Preliminaries at Hodges Stadium. The team of Dennis Moore, Justin Thomas, AJ Dohanic and Landon Powell finished in

a blistering time of 39.87 seconds, breaking the previous ASU record of 39.91 seconds set in 2003 and tied in 2007.

The Mountaineers finished second in their heat and eighth overall as the top-12 relay squads advanced to the NCAA Championships, which take place June 6-9 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Powell, who advanced past the first stage of qualifying in the 100-meter dash on Thursday, ran the anchor leg for the Apps after Moore started the race and Thomas and Dohanic did their part in the third and fourth spots, respectively. Powell, who finished sixth in his heat and 24th overall, ran the 100-meter dash in 10.56 seconds to advance to Friday's final, but did not finish in the top-12 in the final to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Dennis Moore finished 30th overall in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.61 seconds, but did not make the field of 27 that advanced to Friday's final. Jared Stalling finished 35th in the discus throw with a toss of 163'11" but did not make the top-12 to advance to the next round. He also took 43rd in the hammer throw with a mark of 179', but did not qualify for nationals.

Alex Taylor, who competed in the 1,500-meter run, finished 21st overall with a time of 3:49.12, but finished seventh in his heat, just missing the top-five which would have automatically sent him to the final.

Dohanic, who also competed in the 110-meter hurdles, finished 45th with a time of 14.49 seconds but did not advance to the next round. Darius Purcell competed in the high jump on Saturday, but fell just shy of finishing in the top-12 and advancing to nationals as his leap of 7'1" placed him 13th. In the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Sean Soderman, Josh Cox and Chris Moen finished 25th, 36th and 43rd, respectively, but none of the three was able to crack the top-12 to advance to Des Moines.

**Photo Courtesy: Landon Powell, ASU Athletics**