

Williams Leads Bobcats At Conference Championships

Written by Whitney Noble

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Sophomore Ryan Trask (Cobleskill, N.Y.) placed second in the discus throw, and senior Brandon Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) turned in a pair of strong performances in the 110- and 400-meter hurdles to pace the Lees-McRae College men's track and field team to an impassioned effort on the second day of the Conference Carolinas Outdoor Track and Field Championships on Saturday.

Limestone College claimed the team title with 142 points, edging out defending champion Mount Olive College's total of 132 markers, as North Greenville University (129) finished third. King College placed fourth with 116 points, followed by Lees-McRae (27), Belmont Abbey College (25), Barton College (24), and Queens University of Charlotte (11).

Ian Harned (Pine Level, N.C.) kicked off the day with a seventh-place finish in the 400-meter dash, posting a time of 51.04 seconds. Michael Davis (Independence, Va.) and Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the 1,500-meter run, turning in marks of 4:13.31 and 4:17.28.

Williams earned a spot on the podium with a strong performance in the 110-meter hurdles, finishing third with a time of 15.70 seconds, while placing sixth in the 400-meter hurdles. Travis Burton (Newberry, S.C.) finished a close seventh, crossing the line just 13 hundredths of a second behind Williams.

Burton and Harned teamed with Jarrett Gibson (Marietta, Ga.) and Razhede Highsmith (Gastonia, N.C.) to finish fifth in the 4x400-meter relay, posting a time of 3:30.87. Eric Cloy (Ball Ground, Ga.) put together a season-best performance in the long jump, finishing ninth with a mark of 6.07 meters. Davante Scott (Hopkins, S.C.) followed with a season-high mark of his own in the triple jump, surpassing his previous campaign-best by nearly a meter with a jump of 12.44 meters.

Dwight Gilzene (Charlotte, N.C.) paced the Bobcats in the shot put, placing fifth with a mark of 12.26 meters, as Devan Mackey (Hickory, N.C.) and Corbin Pickett (Arden, N.C.) finished ninth and 10th, respectively.

Trask then put together one of the top performances of the day in the discus throw, placing second with a mark of 38.48 meters as Pickett finished 10th with a toss of 32.50 meters. Mackey placed fifth in the hammer, posting a season-best by nearly three meters with a throw of 34.27 meters.

Burton tallied the first points of the meet for the Bobcats in the high jump on Friday, placing fourth with a mark of 1.85 meters, as Trask placed sixth in the javelin with a toss of 38.81 meters.

Lees-McRae is expected to return 20 letter-winners from this year's squad, including rising seniors Bradley King (Hildebran, N.C.), Evan Webb (Salisbury, N.C.), Cloy, Davis, Mackey, and Pickett.

Photo Courtesy: Ryan Trask, LMC Athletics