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Southern Arkansas Competes In Abilene

Abilene, Tex. --- Southern Arkansas University, scheduled originally to compete in Memphis, Tenn., Saturday in the University of Memphis' Big Cat Relays, had to switch to Abilene, Tex., for the Oliver Jackson Open Track and Field Meet, hosted by national power Abilene Christian University, after the Memphis meet was canceled. Both the Muleriders and Lady Muleriders did well in several events in Elmer Gray Stadium.

The 'Rider 4X100-meter relay team placed second in the event in 42.20 and the 4X400-meter relay team was fifth in 3:19.39. Members of the 4X100 team were Brandon Suell, D.J. Keithley, Ricky Martinez, and Ed White and making up the 4X400 team were Jermaine Logan, Anthony Gerhard, Martinez, and Keithley.

In individual events, Tyler Johnson was third in the 5,000-meter run in 16:36.85, Elliot Isom was fifth in 16:47.02, Adrian Romanos was seventh in 17:08.30, A.J. Stewart ninth in 17:15.88, Nicholus Vinson 10th in 17:24.66, and Blaine Slack 12th in 17:51.84.

Logan was fifth in the 200-meter dash in 21.41, White was eighth in 21.91, and Keithley was 11th in 22.4. Matt Quinn was sixth in the 1,500-meter run in 4:21.16 and Tim Cannon was eighth in 4:31.03. Eli Elias was sixth in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles in 58.47, and in the 100-meter dash, White was 10th with 10.76, Suell 12th in 10.82, and Keithley 16th in 10.90. In the 400-meter dash, Martinez was 11th in 50.62, Rudy Stennis 16th in 52.40, and Gerhard 20th in 54.23.

In the women's division, Gaby Mendoza gave the Lady 'Riders a first-place finish in the 1,500-meter run in a time of 4:59.42. Mendoza was second in the 5,000 in 19:29.06. Krystal James was seventh in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:18.22. London Hall was eighth in the 800 in 2:31.91, and Ashley Weeks was 11th in 2:40.39. Rebecca Landry was 17th in the 400 in 1:09.00.

In the field events, SAU's Shelley Johnson fouled in the shot put and discus throw, but placed fourth in the javelin with 120-03. Teammate Jessie Mailhes fouled in the javelin.

Southern Arkansas will not compete in either a meet at Stephenville, Tex., hosted by Tarleton State University Thursday or the Texas Relays at Austin this weekend. The next meet for the 'Riders and Lady 'Riders will be a week from Tuesday in Searcy with Harding University the host school.