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SLINDEN POSTS SEASON BEST IN DISCUS, HILL SETS TRACK RECORD AT KNOX INVITE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- In what was a very low key meet, coming on the heels of a successful weekend at the 108th Penn Relays, Sunday's Knoxville Invitational at Tom Black Track proved to be well worth the effort for several members of the University of Tennessee women's track and field program.

Senior Diane Slinden followed up her NCAA provisional discus mark of 174-9 in Philadelphia with another improvement. The Menomonie, Wis., native uncorked a second-place throw of 175-7 to improve her chances for nationals and record another season best. The measurements over the weekend vaulted her back atop the Southeastern Conference rankings in that event, surpassing Florida's Rachel Longfors (174-2). Slinden also took third in the hammer throw Sunday with a season-best heave of 157-7.

Volunteer assistant coach Aretha Hill continued her ascent on all discus records associated with Tennessee. The 1996 Olympian claimed the Tom Black Track record this time, uncorking a fling of 213-7 to supplant Connie Price's 210-9 effort for Coast Athletics on May 22, 1987. Hill also owns the Sea Ray Relays discus mark and currently ranks number two in the world with a throw of 213-11 on May 4 in LaJolla, Calif.

Freshman thrower Lindsey McFarland had her best day as a Lady Vol. The pride of Austin, Texas, took second in the shot put at 40-9.50, third in the discus with a career-best sling of 154-1 and sixth in the hammer throw with a PR of 130-6. Also in the discus, sophomore Janine Tessarzik (Altamont, N.Y.) was fourth at 151-11, while sophomore Sonya Bell was seventh at 119-10.

"We were very pleased about Diane improving her provisional, Lindsey hitting a PR and Janine continuing to show consistency," said field events coach Scott Bennett and distance/cross country coach Rodney Rothoff, who are jointly in charge of the program for the remainder of the season. "This gives people an alternative or addition to Penn Relays, and the meet is really gaining a tradition and history of being especially good for field events. The weather has been beautiful every year, with the exception of the brief storm today, and the wind has been ideal for throwing. That was clearly illustrated today in the discus."

Other Lady Vol finishers at the Knoxville Invite were sophomore Christina Billings (Madison, Wis.) and junior Amber Ayub (Knoxville, Tenn.), going one-two in the 400m hurdles in 65.97 and a career best 69.07, respectively; senior Samantha Coulson (Roswell, Ga.) finishing first in the 400 meters in 58.02; junior Christie Elwin (Adelaide, Australia) tieing for third in the pole vault at 12-1.50; and sophomore Kelly Flowers (Westerville, Ohio) riding a season-topping clearance of 5-4.25 to a fifth-place standing in the high jump.

The meet was suspended at 2:55 p.m. when rain, high winds and hail descended on the track and a National Weather Service tornado warning was simultaneously issued for Knox County. Action resumed approximately 40 minutes later, however, and continued interrupted until the conclusion of the meet around 7 p.m.

The Lady Vols will take next weekend off from competition and continue preparing for theSoutheastern Conference Outdoor Championships. The meet will be held May 9-12 in Starkville, Miss.
EVENT (NCAA QUALIFYING MARKS)
Hammer Throw (Auto: 61.00, Prov: 56.00)  9:30 a.m.
3rd  Diane Slinden  157-7/48.03m
6th  Lindsey McFarland  130-6/39.77!

2nd  Lindsey McFarland  40-9.50/12.43m

Pole Vault (Auto: 4.15, Prov: 3.80)  1:45 p.m.
13rd  Christie Elwin  12-1.50/3.70m
No Mark  Mandy Bergey

High Jump (Auto: 1.83, Prov: 1.79)  3:20 p.m.
15th  Kelly Flowers  5-4.25/1.63m

400m (Auto: 52.40, Prov: 53.70)  4:10 p.m.
1st  Samantha Coulson  58.02

Discus (Auto: 54.50, Prov: 50.00)  4:30 p.m.
2nd  Diane Slinden  175-7/53.51m+
3rd  Lindsey McFarland  154-1/46.97m!
4th  Janine Tessarzik  151-11/46.31m
7th  Sonya Bell  119-10/36.54

400mH (Auto: 57.30, Prov: 59.20)  5:10 p.m.
1st  Christina Billings  65.97
2nd  Amber Ayub  69.07!

KEY
* - NCAA Automatic Qualifier
+ - NCAA Provisional Qualifier
! - Personal Record (Outdoors)
dq - Disqualified
h - Hand Times
nm - No Mark Recorded
p - Prelims
sr - School Record (Outdoors)
w - Wind-aided
Women 100 Meter Dash
(w: 3.1) 1, Stenhouse, Vera, Unattached, 12.14.

Women 100 Meter Hurdles

Women 200 Meter Dash
(w: 2.1) 1, Johnson, Sharice, Unattached, 24.84.

Women 400 Meter Dash
1, Coulson, Samantha, Tennessee, 58.02. 2, Mcdonald, Joy, Unattached, 58.43. 3, Collier, Tiffany, E Tennessee, 58.64.

Women 400 Meter Hurdles
1, Billings, Christina, Tennessee, 1:05.97. 2, Ayub, Amber, Tennessee, 1:09.07.

Women 800 Meter Run

Women 1500 Meter Run
1, Dixon, Rebecca, Milligan, 4:44.59. 2, Berry, Catherine, Asics, 4:46.54. 3, Vanhorn, Michelle, Virginia Tec, 4:56.86. 4, Sauceman, Jen, Carson Newma, 5:03.57. 5, Hunter, Holly, Virginia Tec, 5:05.80. 6, Hammack, Jessica, Virginia Tec, 5:09.79.

Women 3000 Meter Run
1, Novak, Brooke, Unattached, 10:42.67. 2, Cowan-banker, Margaux, Unattached, 11:21.55. 3, Mcgraw, Angela, Milligan, 11:58.82.

Women Long Jump
1, Johnson, Sharice, Unattached, 5.83m, w:3.7 (19-01.50). 2, Stenhouse, Vera, Unattached, 5.69m, w:3.1 (18-08). 3, Block, Zhanna, Asics, 4.30m, w:4.2 (14-01.25).

Women Discus Throw
1, Hill, Aretha, Unattached, 65.10m#, (213-07). 2, Slinden, Diane, Tennessee, 53.51m, (175-07). 3, Mcfarland, Lindsey, Tennessee, 46.97m, (154-01). 4, Tesseract, Janine, Tennessee, 46.31m, (151-11). 5, Wibbels, Erin, Unattached, 42.86m, (140-07). 6, Harvey, Amanda, Ole Miss, 41.11m, (134-10). 7, Bell, Sonya, Tennessee, 36.54m, (119-10).

Women Hammer Throw
1, Wibbels, Erin, Unattached, 56.22m, (184-05). 2, Miller, Kiesha, Unattached, 49.54m, (162-06). 3, Slinden, Diane, Tennessee, 48.03m, (157-07). 4, Harvey, Amanda, Ole Miss, 44.83m, (147-01). 5, Turner, Tiffany, Georgia Tech, 44.68m, (146-07). 6, Mcfarland, Lindsey, Tennessee, 39.77m, (130-06).

Women Javelin Throw
1, Jones, Melissa, Ole Miss, 41.58m, (136-05). 2, Haun, Heidi, Carson Newma, 34.77m, (114-01). 3, Reimer, Lauren, Georgia Tech, 34.32m, (112-07).

Women Shot Put
1, Wibbels, Erin, Unattached, 14.25m, (46-09). 2, Harvey, Amanda, Ole Miss, 12.56m, (41-02.50). 3, Mcfarland, Lindsey, Tennessee, 12.43m, (40-09.50). 4, Reimer, Lauren, Georgia Tech, 12.19m, (40-00).

Women High Jump
1, Burks, Kaylah, Auburn, 1.73m, (5-08). 2, Howard, Cheryl, E Tennessee, 1.68m, (5-06). 2, Lacombe, Virginia, W Carolina, 1.68m, (5-06). 4, Pace, Kristin, N Carolina S, 1.61m, (5-06). 5, Flowers, Kelly, Tennessee, 1.63m, (5-04.25). 6, Johnson, Sharice, Unattached, 1.45m, (5-02.25). 7, Page, Ashley, Auburn, 1.58m, (5-02.25). 8, Reimer, Lauren, Georgia Tech, 1.53m, (5-00.25).

Women Pole Vault