

SPORTS

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TRACK AND FIELD

Barton County transfers shine at SEC meet

BY MIKE STRANGE
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Unbeknownst to the casual fan, Barton County Community College is holding a reunion this weekend at Tom Black Track.

Hyleas Fountain of Georgia, the SEC women's heptathlon winner Friday and long-jump runner-up Saturday — Barton County.

Men's long-jump winner John Moffitt of LSU, and second-place finisher Leevan Sands of Auburn — Barton County.

Fred Sharpe of Auburn, a top contender to win the 400 hurdles tonight — Barton County.

Aleen Bailey of South Carolina, fastest women's 200-meter

qualifier Friday — Barton County.

Tennessee's men don't have a junior-college transfer at the moment, but coach Bill Webb and his staff know the way to the isolated campus in Great Bend, Kansas.

"We've got two Bartons coming in ourselves," Webb said. "If you're going to compete in this league, you better be recruiting judo guys, international guys, the best available athletes walking the planet, because the rest of the conference is."

UT has signed thrower Garland Porter and quarter-mile/hurdler Derrick Williams, Webb said.

Porter, who is from the same

Indianapolis high school as UT quarterback James Banks, was recently named Field Athlete of the Meet at the National Junior College Athletic Association meet. He won the shot, was second in the hammer and third in the discus.

Williams won the 400-meter hurdles and was second in the 110 hurdles.

"We're looking forward to getting some Barton guys," Webb said. "That's the factory right now."

Barton has won the past six men's and past four women's juco national titles.

Walter Davis, another Barton alumnus, virtually clinched the NCAA outdoor championship

for LSU last year. He won the triple jump, long jump and ran a relay leg.

Webb said the Vols will continue to take a diverse recruiting approach.

"We don't want to be exclusively a junior college or a foreign team, but we like to have a mix."

Lady Vols coach J.J. Clark, whose program is in a rebuilding mode, said he isn't opposed to recruiting junior-college athletes.

"They're older and a lot of them are very good," Clark said. "The flip side is you only have them for two years."

"I guess if you keep rotating them in, you'd always have some-

body."

Harris Jumps: Stephen Harris, UT's decathlon champion, scratched out of the open long jump Saturday, but will attempt the high jump tonight.

Webb said Harris passed on the long jump less than 24 hours after the decathlon finished to stay healthy for the NCAA decathlon next month.

The high jump, meanwhile, isn't as strong as usual this year. Harris, who has cleared 7 feet, could score for the Vols.

Regional Next: The NCAA's new regional qualifying format begins in two weeks. For the first time, athletes will earn berths at

the national meet in four regional qualifying meets rather than meeting qualifying standards over the course of the season.

Nine SEC schools will compete in the Midwest Regional meet in Columbus, Ohio, on May 30-31. Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are in the East Regional at Fairfax, Va.

Throughout the season, athletes have been earning regional qualifying scores.

Once at the regional, they will qualify head-to-head for the national meet at Sacramento, Calif. on June 11-14.

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