



2016 SEC Indoor Championships – Quotes, Day 2

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Randal Tyson Track Center | Fayetteville, Ark.

Men's 60 Meters Hurdles

Champion: Jordan Moore – LSU – “It honestly just feels great, it’s a blessing. I just want to thank my coaches; without them I wouldn’t have this opportunity. I grinded so hard in the offseason that I needed to focus on rest and technique. I’m a fast guy, but technique was just something I emphasized on.”

Women's 60 Meters Hurdles

Champion: Mikiah Brisco – LSU – “I feel really accomplished. My main goal coming into the meet was just to score points for the team. I have great hurdles coaches and I have a great training partner. Fortunately, in practice, the competition among athletes helps me to prepare for meets of this caliber.”

Men's 60 Meters Dash

Champion: Christian Coleman – Tennessee – “Right now, I am just happy I was able to complete one of my goals for the season. I did what my coach told me to do, I executed and now I am looking forward to the 200.”

Women's 60 Meters Dash

Champion: Mikiah Brisco – LSU – “Going into the 60-meter dash, I spent quite a lot of time working on my start. Obviously, just running to the best of my ability is the most critical part of that event. I was thrilled to earn 20 points for my team.”

Men's 200 Meters

Champion: Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake – LSU – “It’s an amazing feeling, it’s euphoric definitely. The SEC is the toughest conference and there are some stellar athletes. It’s a great track too, so you know the times are going to be fast. I always knew I was in shape, but it’s just a matter of executing when the time comes. You put in all the hard work already, there’s not much you can do in a week’s span to get better. So it’s about keeping focused and running my own race.”

Women's 200 Meters

Champion: Felicia Brown – Tennessee – “The fact that I am the 3rd fastest ever and the current world leader has yet to register. To get to the point where I could run a time like that, I had to focus on my blocks. The blocks are the trickiest part of the race. If an athlete doesn’t lead off well, that is basically the end of the race for them. Pushing and using the turn were critical for this race. I knew that the race went quickly, but I had no idea that I had run that fast.”

Men's 400 Meters

Champion: Kahmari Montgomery – Missouri – “I felt pretty good. I came here pretty nervous, I am a freshman, a little freshman guy. I saw that Michael Cherry was No. 1 and I saw that that guy from

Arkansas was No. 1 as well now. I came here and just believed in myself, believed in God and trusted God and my coaching staff as far as coaching from Carjay Lyles. It has been a rough season as far as from where I was to where to now. Without a doubt I could not have done this without him (Coach Lyles).

Women's 400 Meters

Champion: Taylor Ellis-Watson – Arkansas – “It was exciting to be here on my home track. I didn’t know what heat I would be in because I didn’t run so well yesterday, but I happened to be in the fast heat and in lane three. I could see my field. I just wanted to make it to the break and hold on. I’m excited for my team. Following the 3k yesterday we were unsure of where we would place, but now that we have the lead we hope to hold on to it and use it as our motivator.”

Men's 800 Meters

Champion: Donovan Brazier – Texas A&M – “I was going for the win, that was my whole goal coming off the 1.5 a month ago so I really knew I could do it. Once I made it to the finals, he (Hector Hernandez) set up a perfect race for me. If he wasn’t in that race, I would not have won that race. I know for sure I would not have gotten out that fast. Getting out that fast really helped me because (Andres) Arroyo coming at me pretty fast. If Hector wasn’t in that race, I wouldn’t have won.”

Women's 800 Meters

Champion: Morgan Schuetz – LSU – “My goal going forward is to win a nationals final and become an All-American this year. The 800 meter is by far my favorite event and competing in the SEC, a conference known for some of the toughest competition in that event, is a great honor.”

Men's Mile

Champion: Robert Domanic – Ole Miss – “The biggest thing was just having a good group of teammates with me. There was a lot of bumping and grinding out there, and having my teammates out there to help me keep my composure was big. This is what we talked about all year, getting 20 points on the board for my team is great.”

Women's Mile

Champion: Marta Feitas – Mississippi State – “I am so happy to be here. I had some difficulty in December following the Cross Country season and I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to compete. Thankfully, I made a full recovery and I was able to get my first gold medal in the United States today.”

Men's 5,000 Meters

Champion: Ryan Walling – Ole Miss – “We definitely knew it was possible to go 1-2-3 and that was the goal. After all, we want to do really well in this event, but our goal is to win the entire meet. We knew if we wanted to chance to win the meet, we had to go 1-2-3. We’re known for being kickers, so we knew we had it in us to pick up ground at the end.”

Women's 5,000 Meters

Champion: Chelse Blaase – Tennessee – “It was an exciting race. Girls ran it very well. As we were cruising along I just picked a point to push forward and was able to hold the lead. Because I am already qualified, my main goal was to get the points for the team, have fun, and gain experience.”

Men's 4x400 Meter Relay

Champion: Florida – “It was a great feeling. The whole meet we were kind of wishy-washy but Coach always tells us to end off on a great note. We are No. 5 in the nation right now and he said just go out there and make sure we ran fast and make nationals. That’s what we did.

Women’s 4x400 Meter Relay

Champion: Tennessee (Felicia Brown) – Tennessee – “I looked up at the scoreboard as we were running that last lap and I saw that Taylor Ellis-Watson was making her move. I pushed out that final stretch and our team was victorious. I am so proud of our team and all of the teams here. Today we set a school record and we hope to take the same event at nationals.

Men’s Distance Medley Relay

Champion: Ole Miss – “It means everything. It is a three-peat and DMR is our favorite event for this team. We are trying to be the best middle-distance team there is in the country so that is one of the main teller’s, the DMR.”

Women’s Distance Medley Relay

Champion: Arkansas (Devin Clark anchor) – Arkansas – “I think that the crowd was an incredible encouragement in this event. Our team is very positive and we support each other. That support is the ultimate motivation. In our preparation, the advantage of being home was critical. Our comfortability with our environment contributed to the win. There is nothing like running at home.”

Heptathlon

Champion: Garrett Scantling – Georgia – “It always feels good to win SEC’s. The way I did it was kind of disappointing with the 1K feeling as bad as it did on my body but I got a couple PR’s, tied the PR in the pole vault, PR’d in the shotput. Overall, it is a nice lead up meet to NCAA’s so let’s hope I can do something there.”

Women’s High Jump

Champion: Nakita Gray – South Carolina – “The key to my win was my mindset. With the SEC opponents we have at meets like this, it is important to keep a level head and remember the things we have learned in practice. I am just thrilled to be here, but it feels great to have won. My goal is to clear 1.88m and continue to raise my PR.”

Women’s Pole Vault

Champion: Alexis Weeks – Arkansas – “Coming into this weekend I had high expectations for myself as I am ranked number one in the country. I haven’t ever been to a meet of this caliber and it was by far the most nerve wracking experience of my life. I tried to stay calm and take one jump at a time. My goal is to go to nationals, do well, and score some points.”

Men’s Triple Jump

Champion: Clive Pullen – Arkansas – “It’s a feeling I can’t even explain. Last night, I sat beside my bed and prayed to God for this opportunity and it came. It’s a great feeling to win. I was trying my best not to think about actually going for any distance or a win. I was focusing on the process as Travis Geopfert would normally say and it came. I knew I was in the proper physical shape, I just needed to be in the proper mental shape to execute what I have been doing at practice. I am thankful.”

Women’s Triple Jump

Champion: Keturah Orji – UGA – “I got my win on the first jump and it was also a PR, so I am excited to bring my best jump to nationals. I jumped 14.09m today. I think this meet was great preparation for nationals. My goals are to continue to PR, train hard, and stay consistent.”

Men’s Weight Throw

Champion: Cameron Brown – Tennessee – “It feels great going back to back one last year. I came back in knowing I had the potential to do it again. Coach just said this week to go in and take care of business and that’s what we did. It may not have been the mark we wanted, but it’s good to get a championship going into the next round.”

Women’s Weight Throw

Champion: Beckie Famurewa – Kentucky – “I came in third last year, but it felt good to come out here and finally get an SEC win. The SEC has some of the toughest competition and my coaches ensure that I go to some of the best meets to get me ready for nationals. My personal best is 21.61m, I threw 20.82m today. It isn’t my best, but I am still working on it for nationals.”

Men’s Team Champion

Arkansas Coach Chris Bucknam – “It means everything to us. This is a meet we circle every year. We got the Cross Country Championship in the fall, we got the second-leg of the triple crown tonight and we are looking forward to going outdoors to Birmingham and Tuscaloosa and getting that one, too.”

On winning 100 conference championships – “It’s pretty awesome. It’s in our DNA to win these championships. We have built a great legacy with all of our alums, these banners in the ceiling, a number of conference championships that they have won in the past. We take pride, we embrace it and we try to live to that standard and these guys did that today. We lived to that standard of what Arkansas Track and Field is all about.”

Women’s Team Champion

Arkansas Coach: Lance Harter – “We started to have great successes in every event in which we participated. We continued to capitalize on the moment and the situation. When the ball gets going, it keeps going in our favor. When the distance medley went down, that crowd exploded. It almost brings tears to my eyes when that happens. It is such a cherished moment.”

Men’s Cliff Harper Trophy

Winner: Christian Coleman – Tennessee – “The SEC is the best conference in the world and to come out here to win an award like this, that is pretty incredible. Right now, I am just blessed. I met some of my goals. I won the 60, came in second in the 200 but we made it up in the 4x400 which that was great. Right now, we are just hungry really.”

Winner: Ryan Walling – Ole Miss – “We knew it was going to be a tough meet going in with Arkansas, Texas A&M and a lot of good teams that have really great guys. I had to rely on my teammates and they were there for me every step of the way. It was nice to have them behind me the whole way. It was really special.”

Women’s Cliff Harper Trophy

Winner: Mikiah Brisco – LSU – “It feels good to score points for our team that helped us place second in the SEC. Winning the Cliff Harper award is a great conclusion to a great meet.”

Chelsea Blaase – Tennessee – “I was not expecting this award, but it was a great way to end the meet. It was a great meet and a great experience all the way through. It was a pleasure to watch my team and all of the other SEC teams compete. I’m honored to have received this award.”