

ETSU track teams take fifth in SC

From staff reports

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — East Tennessee State University took home a pair of fifth-place team finishes Saturday at the Southern Conference track meet, fielding some of the smallest squads in the league.

The Buccaneer men scored 77½ points, well behind winner Appalachian State's 161, but got another solid performance from Seamus Power, who won the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs.

"We were a little disappointed at fifth," said ETSU assistant coach Mike Dixon, "but we had some sickness and injury on the men's side which took us out of third place. But the people we did have out there performed pretty well. We were pleased with the folks we did bring."

Power ran a 33:03 — although he and the rest of the field ran an extra lap, thus the slower time — to win the 10,000. Teammate Mike Saunders, returning from injury, was third in 33:18 and ETSU's Rick Patterson was

fourth in 33:19.4.

Patterson was beaten at the line in the 1,500 by Virginia Military Institute's Anthony Brinkley, who ran 3:55.77 to Patterson's 3:55.85. Davoren was third at 3:57.31. He also placed second in a tight steeplechase race, running 9:18.9.

The Bucs got a big boost when Paul Helmandollar won the 800 in 1:54.10, surging from the back to surprise the field.

Power returned to win the 5,000 in 14:19.64, while Davoren was second in 14:55 and Patterson fifth in 15:00.

Marshall took second overall with 143½ points, followed by Western Carolina at 98, VMI with 86 and then ETSU. Furman (28), The Citadel (20 and Davidson (11) rounded out the scoring. Tennessee-Chattanooga did not place.

"Seamus led us with his usual good performance," said Dixon. "The big one for us was Helmandollar, who's a walk-on. When he came here he wrote his goals out,

which were to graduate, and to win the Southern Conference 800. So he got that.

"Davoren ran the best we've seen him run, too. He was tough in the steeplechase and the 5,000."

Western Carolina's Sean Miller was named athlete of the meet after placing third in the 110-meter hurdles and winning the long jump.

The Buccaneer women had only a handful of athletes but they worked hard. Distance runner Monica Robbers, who recently became eligible after weeks of monotonous training, placed in four events and ran a relay leg.

The New Zealander was third in the 10,000 in 38:11.7; third in the 3,000 in 10:20.9; fourth in the 5,000 in 17:54.56; and fifth in the 1,500 at 4:56.65.

Beverly Dalton took second in the long jump at 5.9 meters, was fourth in the 100-yard dash in 12.2, and took third in the 200 in 24.9.

Reigning indoor SC champ Shelli Clendenon, a freshman, tied for third at 5-2, two inches below the winner. The competition was hampered by rain and a new jumping surface that made footing uncertain.

Shelly Robinson gave the Bucs a solid second-place finish in 2:16.74 in the 800 meters.

"Beverly's a senior and she's been performing like that for four years," said Dixon, "so we're really pleased with her. Monica being the new one, she ran more miles than anyone at the meet.

"And for Shelly, who's also a senior, the 800 was a big run for her. It was her personal best. She was deep in the pack but made it up at end, so it was an exciting finish."

Appalachian State dominated with 258 points, with Western Carolina second at 108. Third was Marshall's 65, while Furman edged the Bucs, 53 points to 52. UTC and Davidson tied with 14 apiece.