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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Track and Field Ready for Outdoor Championships***

**EDINBURG, Texas** – The UMKC track and field team will travel south for the 2017 Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships, hosted by UT Rio Grande Valley, on May 10-13.

In a pre-championship coaches' poll, the UMKC men's team tied with Grand Canyon as the league's favorite to win the team title. The UMKC women's team is projected to finish second alongside Grand Canyon, but the pair only sits one point behind New Mexico State in the poll.

During the outdoor season, five Roos have combined for eight weekly honors from the conference to recognize their success on the track and in the field. **Marcus Johnson** (Nixa, Mo.), **Christopher Bryan** (St. Catherine, Jamaica) and **Blake Hocking** (Lawrence, Kan.) have each earned a pair of accolades, while **Darrien Case** (Parkville, Mo.) and **Chantel Bethune** (St. Louis, Mo.) have each been awarded WAC Track Athletes of the Week once this season.

Eight UMKC school records have been broken this season, including the discus throw, 800-meter run and pole vault on both the women's and men's side. The women's 400-meter dash and 3,000-meter run records have also been replaced.

On the men's side, 22 student-athletes currently hold top-eight positions in the WAC in 18 individual events, while 23 on the women's squad are sitting in the top-eight in 15 individual events. The top-eight finishers in each individual event will contribute points to their school's team total. The WAC has provided a [championship central](#) page that will be updated throughout the four-day meet.

UMKC returns four WAC individual champions, eight first team all-conference performers and 13 second team All-WAC honorees from last season.

Student-athletes that qualify will travel to Austin, Texas, to compete in the first round of the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships on May 26-27.

For more information on UMKC track and field, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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