

1976 STATE DECATHLON
Hendersonville High School - Hendersonville, TN
June 2-3, 1976
FINAL RESULTS

Bruce Wins Decathlon

By TOM SQUIRES

Notre Dame's Mike Bruce isn't as easy to catch as he used to be.

Take the TSSAA State Decathlon for example. A year ago, he led after the first day of competition only to finish ninth. This season, he led at the midway point and never looked back in becoming the 1976 Tennessee champion.

BRUCE, a nationally-ranked high school hurdler, wound up the two-day competition yesterday at Hendersonville with 8,399 points for a winning margin of more than 300.

Finishing runnerup for the second straight year was John Harris of Memphis Bishop Byrne with 8,075 points. He and Bruce were the only two of 15 participants to earn more than 4,000 points on each of the two days of competition.

Bruce, who led by 127 points at the midway point, gained the maximum 1,000 in his specialty—the 120-yard high hurdles. The Irish senior, who won the state track title in that event just two weeks ago with a record time of 13.7, was clocked in 14.0 yesterday.

HARRIS, who trans-

ferred to Bishop Byrne from Nashville Hillsboro two years ago, ran in the same hurdle heat with Bruce and also picked up the maximum 1,000 points with a 15.0 clocking. But, he could top Bruce in only one of the remaining four events.

Headed to Auburn on a football grant, the 6-1, 185-pound Bruce got 850 points in the triple jump (40-9 $\frac{3}{4}$), 676 in the discus (108-9), 880 in the pole vault (11-0), and 760 in the mile run (5:13.4).

Harris triple jumped 38-8 $\frac{1}{4}$, threw the discus 114-4 $\frac{1}{2}$, pole vaulted 10-6, and ran the mile in 5:15.8.

"UNDER better weather conditions, I feel like Bruce would've broken the existing point record of 8,931," said meet director Junior Ward. "It rained hard all day yesterday and we had a misty rain all day today. He certainly is an outstanding athlete."

McGavock's Mike Sykes finished strong and wound up in fifth place with 7,553 points. He had the best triple jump of the 15 participants at 42-1, worth 910 points.

The top discus throw of the day belonged to Putnam County's Flavious

Smith at 139-3. Sykes and Overton's Joe Kolodziej were among three tied for best pole vault at 11-7.

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FIRST DAY RESULTS

Chattanooga's Mike Bruce

Familiar Face In Decathlon Lead

By TOM SQUIRES

Chattanooga Notre Dame's Mike Bruce is right where he was a year ago at this time—leading at the midway point of the TSSAA State Decathlon.

Despite the steady thundershowers, the championship meet got underway yesterday morning at Hendersonville with 15 of the best track athletes in Tennessee competing.

BRUCE finished the first five events with a total of 4,233 points to lead

Memphis Wooddale's Tim Flatt by 127 as the meet concludes today at the Sumner County track.

Points are awarded according to your performance in each event with the maximum being 1,000.

Bruce, who won the state high hurdles title just two weeks ago at Hendersonville with a record time of 13.7, was one of six to get the maximum 1,000 in the high jump for clearing 5-10 and was the top performer

of the day in both the 100-yard dash and 440.

THE IRISH senior ran the 100 in 10.2 for 900 points and was clocked in 51.7 for the quarter-mile to pick up 865 more. Bruce long jumped 19-4½ (822) and threw the shot 38-5 (646) for his 4,233 total.

Bruce had just over 3,900 points at the midway point of last season's meet, but dropped from first to ninth following the final five events.

Flatt and last year's

state runnerup John Harris of Memphis Bishop Byrne are still in contention. Harris has 4,053 points, more than 400 ahead of last year's pace when he wound up with 7,368 to finish second to Overton's Jack Chandler.

FLATT HAD the best long jump of the day, 20-6¾ for 942 points. Cookeville's Flavious Smith, who is well back in 13th position, threw the shot 47-7 to gain the maximum 1,000 points. Harris got

1,000 for 5-10 in the high jump.

McGavock's Mike Sykes the top Middle Tennessee performer, thus far, with 3,653 for eighth spot. Mid-state regional champion Randy Singleton of Bellevue is in 10th with 3,449, one notch ahead of Overton's Joe Kolodziej.

The final five events get underway this morning at 9:30 a.m. with the high hurdles, followed by the discus, pole vault, triple jump, and mile run.

POINT STANDINGS

1. Bruce (Notre Dame) 4,233; 2. Flatt (Wooddale) 4,106; 3. Harris (Bishop Byrne) 4,053; 4. Crute (Bearden) 3,841; 5. Scheider (Union Co.) 3,841; 6. Christenbury (MUS) 3,721; 7. Van Fleet (Knox South) 3,650; 8. Sykes (McGavock) 3,653; 9. Brimmer (Jefferson) 3,449; 10. Singleton (Bellevue) 3,449; 11. Kolodziej (Overton) 3,425; 12. Heer (CBHS) 3,385; 13. Smith (Cookeville) 2,942; 14. Fisher (MUS) 2,228; 15. Powers (Jacksonville) 2,146.

TOP PERFORMANCES

100—Bruce (ND) 10.2; Long Jump—Flatt (Wooddale) 20-6¾; Shot—Smith (Cookeville) 47-7; High Jump—Fisher (MUS); Christenbury (MUS); Crute (Bearden); Harris (Bishop Byrne); Bruce (ND); Singleton (Bellevue); 5-10: 440—Bruce (ND) 31.7.