

1983 STATE DECATHLON
Montgomery Bell Academy - Nashville, TN
May 24-25, 1983
FINAL RESULTS

Carpenter Claims Decathlon Title

By CINDY SMITH

When the gun went off for the last lap of the mile in the TSSAA state decathlon yesterday, Memphis Wooddale's Bevin Carpenter was worried about three things.

An asthma attack was his first concern, dying on the back stretch his second, and last of all, he was afraid of the clock.

Carpenter needed to finish the mile, his worst event, within 13 and a half seconds of MBA's Brooks Corzine to win the decathlon title.

WITH TWO grueling days and nine events behind, Carpenter found just enough strength to run his best time ever in the mile, a 5:29.9, to finish seven seconds behind Corzine, who ran a 5:22.7, and claim the championship.

"This is as tired as I've ever been in my whole life," said Car-

penter, a senior headed to Memphis State University on a football scholarship. "In my whole athletic career, this is my happiest moment."

Corzine, last year's state champ, had trailed Carpenter 4,695 to 3,980 points after the first day, but the Vanderbilt-bound MBA senior, had gained on Carpenter throughout the second day, aided by an 1,135-point performance in the pole vault.

When all was said and done yesterday, Carpenter had just beaten Corzine by 45 points — 8515 to 8470. Both scores were state championship point total records.

IN THE girl's pentathlon, which was held yesterday, was a West Tennessee sweep. Memphis Northside's Terkeler Shegog scored 4,215 to win the event. The highest Midstate finisher was Murfreesboro Oakland's

Sherrie Bingham who wound up with 3,370 points and finished in sixth place.

The girls' competition was not close as Shegog ran away from the field with two 1,000 point performances in the 110 hurdles and the 880 run, but the boy's competition was a completely different story.

Carpenter started the day with a 14.4 in the 110 high hurdles, his best event. Corzine ran the second best time, a 15.4. In the discus, Carpenter threw 137-5 — the day's best throw — and Corzine was fourth with a 124-11 ½.

Both top competitors had to sit back and watch Overton's Chuck Sorrow take the triple jump, an event which Sorrow is campaigning to have installed in the regular track meet season. Sorrow jumped 42-7 ¾, Corzine was second with a jump with a 42-2 ¾, and Carpenter was fourth.

CORZINE OWNED the pole vault, clearing 13-3, and teammate Kent Rollins was second with a 12-6. Carpenter finished way down the line with a 9-0, and he had to wait a couple of hours until Corzine had completed his vaulting to run the last event, the mile.

In the overall point standings, Wooddale's Earl Nichols was third after Carpenter and Corzine followed by Memphis University's School's Craig Christenberry, McCallie's Peter Hunt, Overton's Sorrow, Knoxville Bearden's Tony Heitzman, Memphis Mitchell's Nico Perkins, Memphis Trezevant's Mike West, MBA's Steve Rollins, Hillwood's Mike Dedman. Knoxville

Karns' Tommy Owen, Knoxville Halls' Jeff Whitt, MBA's Kent Rollins and Morristown West's James Green.

In the girls' overall standings, Shegog was followed by Union City's Tammy Critchfield, Collierville's Linda Gantner, Memphis Prep's Elizabeth Peek, Memphis Overton's Glynetha Johnson, Murfreesboro Oakland's Bingham, McGavock's Jan Sadler, Knoxville Farragut's Kellie Smith, Overton's Donna Davis, Volunteer's Camilia Benton, Dobyns-Bennett's Donletta Norman, Bearden's Kelly Taylor, Brentwood Academy's Shelly Stannard, St. Cecilia's Stephanie Morales and Halls' Jennifer Morgan.

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FIRST DAY RESULTS

Carpenter Not Resting

By CINDY SMITH

Bevin Carpenter has already graduated from high school, been to the prom and gone down the Mississippi River on a graduation celebration boat ride.

So, when it came to the state decathlon, Memphis Wooddale's Carpenter might have chosen to rest on his laurels which included among other things a state championship in the 110-meter high hurdles.

THAT CARPENTER made the decision to join the participants at the Montgomery Bell Academy track for the TSSAA state decathlon and is the first-day leader is the result of what Carpenter feels is an injustice.

"I really wasn't all that excited about the decathlon and might not have come except that I have something to prove to the people back home in Memphis," said the Memphis State University-bound football player.

"We have this thing in Memphis called the best of the preps, and one guy is chosen as the athlete of the year," he explained. "This probably sounds

bad, but I thought I should have won that award, and I didn't. So, I decided to come to Nashville and prove that I'm the best athlete in the hardest event of the year."

THE DECATHLON continues today at MBA starting at 9:30 a.m. and the state's best girls will be in town to compete in the one-day pentathlon.

In yesterday's five events, Carpenter tallied 4,695 points, winning the shot put with a throw of 48-2 1/4, placing second in the 100 and the high jump, and tying for second in the 400-meter run. His only first-day disappointment was in the long jump.

Trailing Carpenter in the overall competition is Knoxville Bearden's Tony Heitzman who earned 1,240 points in the high jump to up his first-day total to 4,155. Heitzman, the state high jump champ, cleared 6-8 yesterday in a spirited competition which included four 1,000-point jumps.

OVERTON RISING junior (al-

most all of the competitors are finished with school for the year) Chuck Sorrow tied a personal record in the high jump, clearing 6-4 to earn the 1,000-point standard, as did Memphis University School's Craig Christenberry, who cleared 6-2, and, of course, the multi-talented Carpenter.

Defending state champion Brooks Corzine of MBA is in third place with 3,980 points heading into the second day of competition which includes his best event, the pole vault.

Carpenter is the first to admit that he won't challenge Corzine in that event. "If the good Lord is willing, I might clear nine feet," he added with a laugh.

NICO PERKINS of Memphis Mitchell follows Corzine in the overall standings with 3,910 points — he jumped 20-6 1/2 to win the long jump. Carpenter's teammate, junior Earl Nichols, the state 400-meter champion, won both the 100 and the 400 yesterday to earn fifth place overall with 3,825 points.

In sixth place with 3,740 points is Chattanooga McCallie's Peter Hunt followed — in order — by Sorrow, Christenberry, MBA's Steve Rollins, Knoxville Karns' Tommy Owens, Memphis Trezevant's Mike West, Hillwood's Mike Dedman, Knoxville Halls' Jeff Whitt, MBA's Kent Rollins, and Morristown West's James Green.

"YOU ALWAYS drop off points between the region and the state because the competition gets so better," said Corzine. "In the first two events today, I was very pleased that I stayed in about the same range my regional performance. But, I lost a couple of feet in the shot put and went down two inches in the high jump.

"The problem with competing against someone like Bevin Carpenter is that he can run into trouble in an event or two and still win," Corzine explained.

Indeed, Carpenter scored over 7,700 points to win his region without even running the mile which had been postponed a day because of heavy rains.



—Staff photo by Ricky Rogers

Passing the Bar Exam

Overtton's Chuck Sorrow clears the high jump bar at 6-4 in the TSSAA state decathlon competition. Sorrow's jump, tying a personal and school record, was good enough for third in the high jump, and the sophomore is currently seventh in the overall competition. Story on Page 4.