

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.



— Staff photo by Ricky Rogers

Determined Davis

Overton High's Donna Davis looks determined as she clears the hurdles in the TSSAA pentathlon. Davis ran a 16:2 in her heat to finish eighth. She tied for ninth in the overall competition. Story on Page 6.