

Tusky Valley boys finish close 2nd in 'AA' regional

By MARK MASSARO
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NEW CONCORD — What a senior swansong!

Tuscarawas Valley's Toby Oswald, John Sponaugle and Sandy Moore are going to end their high school athletic careers as triple qualifiers for the state track and field championships.

Oswald placed third in the 800-meter run and led off the Trojans' second-place 3,200 relay Friday night at the Class AA regional meet at Muskingum College. Wednesday, he finished second in the pole vault.

SPONAUGLE RAN away with the 1,600 and 3,200 runs and anchored the 3,200 relay. Their efforts led the Trojan boys to runner-up honors in the team standings with 46 points, one shy of Steubenville.

Moore, the distance mighty mite, came on hard down the straightaway — going from fifth to first — to win the 1,600. She also placed second in the 3,200 and anchored the 3,200 relay.

"I wish it wasn't my senior year," said an exhausted Moore after her third distance race of the

night. "I really hate to leave."

In all, Tusky Valley qualified in nine events for the state meet June 1-2 at Ohio State University.

"Four years ago, we got only one person out (of the regionals)," said Trojan boys' coach John Hurst. The top four finishers in each event qualified for state competition.

"I thought maybe we could get it," Sponaugle said of the team title. "We knew it would be close. This is mainly an individual thing, but it makes the school look good."

Also Advancing for Tusky Valley were Mark Mansill, who placed fourth in the discus; Roger Moore and Tim Pedersen in the boys' 3,200 relay; and Darla Chumney, Shonda Chumney and Janene Markoski in the girls' 3,200 relay.

IN OTHER boys' action, Dover totalled 33 points for a fifth-place finish, just ahead of Claymont with 28.

The highlight of the meet for Tornado fans was the 1,600 relay in which anchorman Greg Arbogast pulled Dover from last place (8th) to third with a 49.8 split

time for his 400 meters. The foursome, including John Feutz, John Craig and Dan Hurst, was clocked at 3:28.6.

"This is great. I'm not even tired," said Arbogast, who had to dodge fallen runners in the exchange zone. "That's my first time under 50."

Arbogast and Hurst also qualified for the state in the 400 relay, along with teammates Jeff Margletta and Chris Mills. They took a first place in 43.8.

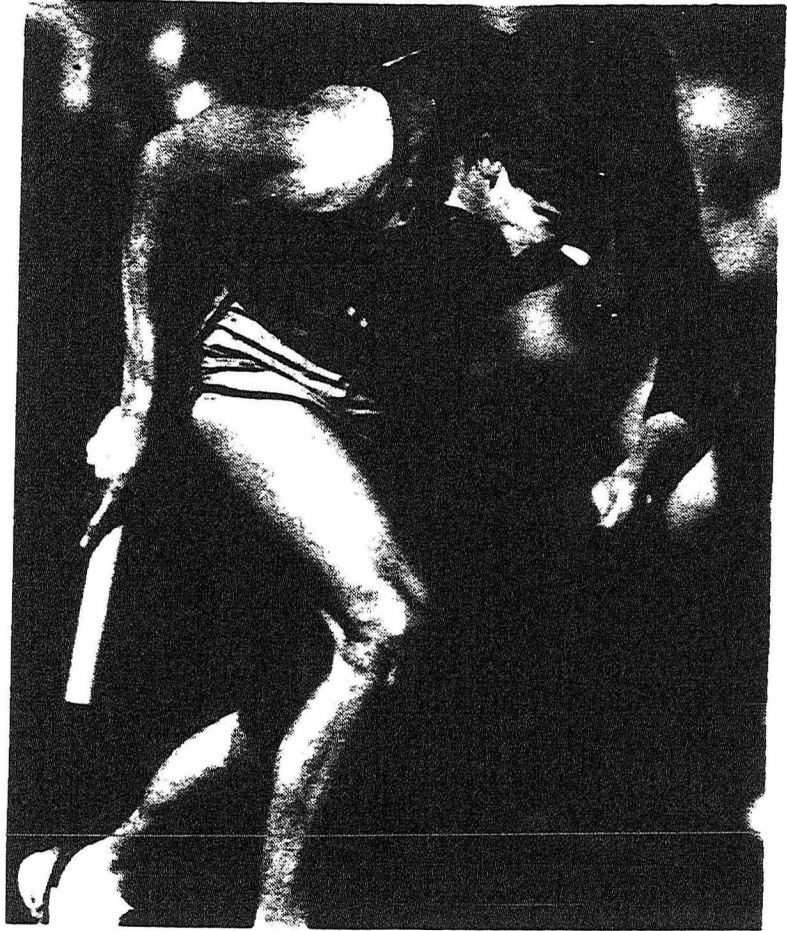
Also for Dover, Dan Van Epps finished second in the long jump and Bryan Miller was third in the 100.

CLAYMONT'S Steve Barker, a firm believer in his three good luck charms — an old knit shirt, a tie made out of a headband and a spiderman doll — won the 800 with a personal best of 1:56.5.

"I've been wanting to get down that low for a while now," Barker said. "I don't want to sound mean, but I really wanted to beat (Steubenville's) Tor Hill. He had the best time coming in (1:55)."

As for the shirt and tie: "I'll

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Dover's Greg Arbogast starts out in the 400-meter relay. The junior helped the Tornadoes qualify for state in two relays Friday night.

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keep it on one more week."

Also for the Mustangs, Andy Pentecost placed second in the discus and Chuck Murray finished fourth in the long jump.

"I didn't throw to win, I threw to go (to the state)," said Pentecost, who didn't want to chance a poor effort by trying for a record distance on each attempt. "I know I'm going and that's all that counts."

SOPHOMORE Eric Peterson of Cadiz had a bitter-sweet evening.

The bitter came with a false start in the 100, which automatically disqualified him from the race. The sweet came when he won the 200 in 22.5, a personal best.

"It hurt," he said of the disqualification. "I was ready to cry. I'm really happy with the 200, but my dream was the 100 in the state."

Cadiz teammate Micky Fitzgerald placed third in the 3,200.

Also from *The Times-Reporter* area, Coshocton's Craig Smalley was third in the long jump and West Holmes' 3,200 relay team of Scott Mellor, Rich Moniger, Ted

Macaulay and Jay Crane placed fourth.

IN GIRLS' results, River View enjoyed a productive meet by qualifying Beth Wesney in the shot put, Karen Butler in the 800, Jonalee Hagans in the 400 and the 3,200 relay team of Vonda Cincinnati, Gina McVay, Hagans and Butler.

Hagans, a senior who returns to state competition after a two-year absence, had the unpleasure of waiting through two misfires by the starter's gun in the 400.

"I said, 'Why are you doing this to me?' He (the starter) said, 'I saw you weren't ready so I clicked it for you,'" laughed Hagans, who went to Columbus in the 3,200 relay as a freshman.

West Holmes' Lisa Cline placed second in the discus while Coshocton's Theresa Jones was third in the 3,200.

RIDGEWOOD junior Diane Croy had an unusual incentive for qualifying in the high jump. She placed fourth at 5-4.

"My greatest inspiration was the whirlpool that will be at the motel in Columbus," she said. "I love whirlpools."