

Barker, North relay take 3rds in state track

By MARK MASSARO
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COLUMBUS — Athletes at the state track and field championships will always remember competing at Ohio Stadium, especially the heat.

Heat waves rippled off the football field during a sunny, 90-degree Saturday afternoon, the horseshoe stadium blocking out what little breeze blew across the Ohio State University campus. Only low humidity made it a tolerable day.

Runners ducked into the training room or the cool, damp corridor inside the stadium to escape the energy-draining sun. Bleachers along the backstretch were as popular for sun bathers as for fans watching the meet.

WATER PUMPERS and towels soaked in ice water awaited the runners at the finish line. OSU student trainers were busy car-

rying exhausted competitors off the track after the distance races.

"It felt like heat was blowing on you instead of wind," said Claymont junior Steve Barker, who placed third in the Class AA 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.02. "It was tough. My feet are on fire, too."

Barker was one of only five entrants from *The Times-Reporter* area to place in the top six during Saturday's running finals and conclusion of the field events.

It was a light day compared to Friday's session, when four area athletes claimed state championships: Claymont's Andy Pentecost in the 'AA' discus, Newcomerstown's Dave Bell in the 'A' pole vault, Malvern's Karen Larke in the 'A' high jump and West Holmes' Lisa Cline in the 'AA' shot put.

It appeared the sun had gotten the better of Barker, as it did most other area distance runners, when he dropped from fifth to a lagging eighth midway around the second lap of the 800.

HE WASN'T finished, however, charging hard the final 200 meters to take third place by a convincing margin.

"It was faster than I thought it would be," Barker said of the pace. "I just wanted to hang with the group so I could kick them at the end."

"I had the fourth-best (regional) time coming in," he explained. "I wanted to get one of those guys... and that's what I got. I hope to get first next year."

Tor Hill of Steubenville won the race in a meet-record time of 1:53.55. Last year, Barker finished 12th at the state meet.

Indian Valley North's 800 relay

team was fortunate enough to beat the afternoon sun. Jessie Metzger, Terry Benadum, Carmen Searcy and Becki Schoelles enjoyed a cool 9:45 a.m. starting time.

They responded with a third-place finish in the Class A event, clocking in at 1:47.04. Rockford Parkway was first in 1:46.52.

"I'VE NEVER been nervous until today... not in my whole life," said Schoelles, a senior, who anchored North's relay team and qualified for the state in four events for the second straight year.

"It was awesome," added Searcy. "We did what we knew we could do."

One runner who thought he could have done a little better was Dover's Bryan Miller, who placed fifth in the 'AA' 100 with a time of 11.18. Sandusky Perkin's Don Clark was first in 10.74.

"If I had gotten out of the blocks, I'd have done a lot better," explained Miller, who yanked his shoes off in disappointment after crossing the finish line. "I thought the wait (for the starter's gun) would be a little longer, but all of a sudden it went off."

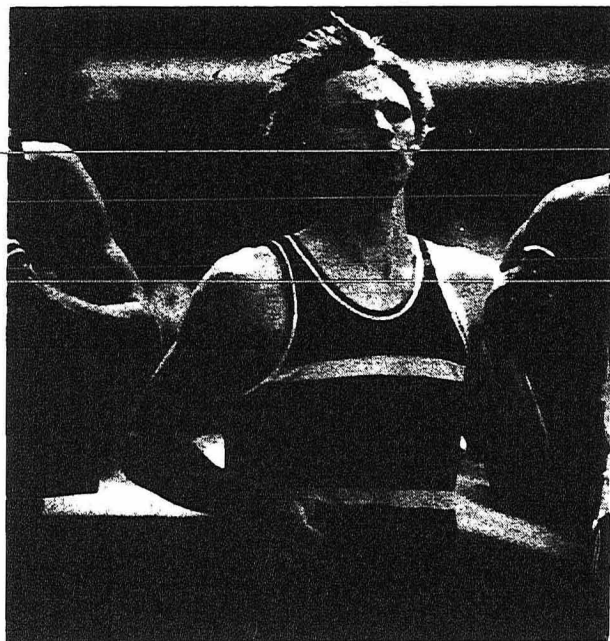
"Next year, I know I'll get in the top three," he added. "I wanted fourth or better, but fifth isn't that far off."

In the 'AA' discus, Beth Manson of Sandy Valley added a fifth-place award to the third she earned in Friday's shot put. The senior threw 124-feet-1.

JUST MISSING the point-earning places were West Holmes' Cline, who was seventh at 118-6, and River View's Beth Wesney, who finished eighth at 117-8.

Tusky Valley was well represented in the 'AA' boys' and girls'

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T-R/Eric Albrecht

CLAYMONT'S STEVE BARKER (L) GETS 3RD IN 'AA' 800 SATURDAY
At right, Bryan Miller of Dover finishes 5th in 'AA' 100 race

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State track has 'hot' finish

distance races, but the best it could manage was a sixth by the 3,200 relay team of Toby Oswald, Roger Moore, Tim Pedersen and John Sponaugle, who ran an 8:00.36.7.

"The heat was tough, but we did it," said Moore.

"We owe it to Toby for keeping sixth place," Pedersen said of their anchorman, who was 11th in the 'AA' 800 earlier in the day and third in Friday's pole vault.

The race took its toll on Sponaugle, who was a good bet to place in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs which were held within the next two hours. It was the same for teammate Sandy Moore, who

competed in the girls' division of the same three events.

Sponaugle finished 11th in the 1,600 (he had the fourth-best regional time) and 10th in the 3,200.

"IT'S TOO HOT for me," said Sponaugle, who got a welcome towel bath from Oswald after both races. "Three distance races were too much. I wanted to place (in the top six), but you can't have everything."

The Tusky Valley girls' 3,200 relay team of Darla Chumney, Janene Markoski, Shonda Chumney and Moore was 15th, just ahead of River View's quartet of Gina McVay, Vonda Cincinnati, Karen Butler and Jonalee

Hagans. Butler also was 16th in the 'AA' 800, held later in the day.

Moore followed up with an 11th place in the 1,600 and 13th in the 3,200. Coshocton's Theresa Jones finished eighth in the 3,200 in 11:48.9.

When asked about the heat, Moore said, "Anything is worth running at state. I just wish it was at night."

In the 'A' 800, Strasburg's Brian Shoemaker finished eighth in 2:00.66 and teammate Michelle Ward failed to place. Garaway's Nancy Sexton was 16th in the 'A' 3,200 run.

CLAYMONT'S Chuck Murray missed qualifying for the final

round of the 'AA' long jump by ½-inch when he recorded a 21-3¼. Coshocton's Craig Smalley jumped 21-3 and Dover's Dan Van Epps went 21-2½.

Newcomerstown's discus duo of Bell and Ed Mathews failed to make the final round of their Class A event. Bell threw 135-3 and Mathews 134-4, well off the pace.

The only area entry in the 'AAA' finals was New Philadelphia's 3,200 relay team of Nick Shalosky, Eric Lukens, Dave Glass and Tony Green, who finished 11th.

"The heat was pretty bad," said Shalosky, who led the entire first lap. "But it was great when we came out of the bullpen."

Toby Oswald (L) helps cool off Tusky Valley teammate John Sponaugle after the latter finished in the 3,200 Saturday.