

1977 STATE PENTATHLON

Hendersonville High School - Hendersonville, TN

May 31, 1977

Antioch Junior First TSSAA Champion

Arnold Wins Pentathlon

By TOM SQUIRES

Antioch's Joanne Arnold became the TSSAA's first girls pentathlon champion by one-tenth of a second yesterday at the Hendersonville High School track.

The junior track star finished the five-event competition with 2,889 points, just 14 more than Mt. Juliet senior Gina Thorpe.

AS EXPECTED, it all boiled down to the final race, the 220 dash where Arnold had to watch from the sidelines as Thorpe got two chances to win the title.

Arnold, who finished third in the state 220 race last week, ran a fast 25.8 in her only attempt to make up a 136-point deficit on Thorpe. Her 25.8 time was worth 525 points on the

pentathlon scale.

Thorpe, who set a Nashville Interscholastic League record of 18-0 in the long jump competition earlier in the day, actually ran the 220 twice. Her first time was recorded incorrectly (two-tenths slower than a girl she beat), so she got a second try at the title, needing a 26.3 clocking to surpass Arnold in the point race.

Three watches had her at 26.4.

"THAT would've been a tough one to lose like that," said Antioch girls track coach Walt Smithson. "I figured it would go down to the wire between those two, but I didn't know it would be that close."

"Joanne has been terrific all season," he continued. "She lost only one race all season and that

was the 220 in the state meet. This pentathlon was set up for her strength and hopefully she'll be back after another title next year."

Arnold, who tied a national record of 10.2 in

winning the 80-yard state low hurdles championship, topped the competition in the 110-yard hurdles yesterday with a 14.4 clocking worth 1,000

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points. Carla Yount of Soddy-Daisy (14.8) and Thorpe (15.0) also got the maximum point total.

THORPE, a transfer from Colorado who led Mt. Juliet to the state runnerup team finish, clipped Arnold by an inch in the high jump, 4-11 to 4-10. Arnold came back for an edge in the shot, 30-10 to 29-11.

Next came Thorpe's record-setting long jump of 18 feet, much better than Arnold's 16-6 and a difference of 144 points. But, Arnold's time in the 220 was worth 150 more than Thorpe's.

Tammy Owens of Campbell County finished third with 2,578 points, only four more than Yount who was first in the high jump at 5-1. Fifth-place Alma Cobb of Knox Bearden (2,392) was first in the shot at 38-4.

ALL THE coaches agreed that the events and performance scales needed revision by the TSSAA.

The boys' decathlon went to the halfway mark with Memphis Wooddale's Tim Flatt threatening to set a new point record. His first day total was 4,791, a lead of 197 over rival Tommy Christenbury of Memphis University School.

Paul Davis of state champion Cleveland is third with 4,233 and Daniel Boone's Mike Harrison fourth with 4,204. Midstate regional runnerup Joe Kolodziej of Overton has slipped into fifth with 4,137.

FLATT, who was sixth in the state decathlon last year and barely beat Christenbury for the West-state regional crown, got the maximum 1,000 points in two events and was the top performer in two others.

The Wooddale senior went 21-2½ in the long jump and made 5-10 in the high jump for maximum points. His 10-flat time in the 100 was worth 950 and his 51.3 in the quarter-mile got 895 more.

Christenbury got 1,000 in the shot for a throw of 46-9½ and Davis got 1,000 in the long jump at 21-6. Christenbury, Davis, Kolodziej, Hillsboro's Vincent Hereford, and Mid-state champion Randy Singleton of Bellevue all joined Flatt in clearing 5-10 in the high jump.

THE FINAL five events—the high hurdles, triple jump, discus, pole vault, and mile run—get underway this morning at 9:30.

GIRLS PENTATHLON

1. Joanne Arnold (Antioch) 2,829; 2. Gina Thorpe (Mt. Juliet) 2,875; 3. Tammy Owens (Campbell Co.) 2,578; 4. Carla Yount (Soddy-Daisy) 2,574; 5. Alma Cobb (Knox Bearden) 2,392; 6. Susan Vaughn (Mt. Juliet) 2,370; 7. Juana Boyland (Mem. Central) 2,250; 8. Louise Bayer (Auburndale) 2,066; 9. Susan Wilson (Millington) 1,560.

BOYS DECATHLON

1. Flatt (Wooddale) 4,791; 2. Christenbury (MUS) 4,594; 3. Davis (Cleveland) 4,233; 4. Harrison (Boone) 4,204; 5. Kolodziej (Overton) 4,137; 6. Van Fleet (South-Young) 3,940; 7. Burnwell (Mitchell) 3,920; 8. Hereford (Hillsboro) 3,830; 9. Singleton (Bellevue) 3,704; 10. Wilkens (White Station) 3,665; 11. Carter (Trezevant) 3,589; 12. Poe (Sullivan Central) 3,535; 13. Proffitt (Overton) 3,374; 14. Fort (Hillsboro) 3,354; 15. Duncan (Erwin) Withdrew.