

Greear grabs long jump title

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Jerome Greear made history Saturday.

The spunky Southfield senior leaped to a state-winning distance of 23-feet, 3¼-inches in the Class A long jump event at the state track and field meet held over the weekend in Jackson.

Greear joins Kim Hartman as Southfield's only other individual state boys track and field champion. Hartman won the mile in 1967 with a time of 4:18.2.

It was simply an outstanding day for Greear, who also qualified for the long jump in last year's state meet but did not participate in the finals.

Greear had an impressive series of leaps at 22-5 and 23-3 — both personal bests — before winning at 23-3¼. Darrin Carpenter of Ann Arbor Huron was second in the long jump with a distance of 23-2¼.

"This was his second year in the long jump and I think experience counts a lot," said Southfield coach Tom Eschmann, who has never had an individual state champion in six years as Southfield's head coach.

"MY THEORY is that he had a positive mental attitude. He's been very excited about jumping the last two weeks. He's been improving on his technique all along.

"It was only a matter of time before he got it together for the finals," he said.

Teamwise, Southfield finished in a tie for 14th place overall with 14 points. It was almost a repeat of their 1983 performance when the Blue Jays took 13th with 17 points.

Sophomore Torin Dorn was sixth in the 100-meter dash and Garrett Dunn was eighth in the low hurdles. The Blue Jay relays were off their marks considering they didn't register a point in three different events.

Eschmann said the 800-meter relay had a "sluggish exchange," the 400-meter relay "dropped the baton" and the 1,600-meter relay was just "tired out."

"If there was anything that was disappointing it was our relays," said Eschmann. "We had the potential to do better. But, I'm not disappointed in the people who scored points.

"We just didn't expect all of our points to come in chunks like they did," he said. "We expected more points across the board."

SOUTHFIELD won its third straight Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) title and finished with a loss (8-0) in dual meets for the third straight season.

The Blue Jays won their first ever regional.

Please turn to Page 2



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Practice makes perfect for state long jump champ Jerome Greear of Southfield.