Grove Sets Three Records En Route to Narrow PCL Title

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It took the final event to determine just who would be the Putnam County League Track and Field champions this season, but the Bulldogs of Columbus Grove were not going to be denied winning their fourth straight county meet as they won the mile relay by nearly 40 yards to assure themselves the first place trophy.

With all of the other 14 events finished except the mile relay, there were three clubs still in the thick of the race for the championship trophy. At that time Grove held a slim one point margin over Pandora-Gilboa and a two point lead over Leipsic.

Mark Walls gave the Bulldogs the lead at the start of the mile relay as the junior sprinter quickly jumped out in front of the rest of the pack. Jack Ruen, John Parsons and Tom Halker were the other three runners for the Bulldogs and they were never seriously threatened after Walls' fast start. CG won the mile relay with a time of 3:38.3, and the Rockets were second and Leipsic third.

Grove won their fourth consecutive county meet with a 65 point score and Pandora-Gilboa finished a close second with 62 points while Leipsic tallied 60 points and a third place finish. Ottoville and Continental were the other two county clubs to participate and the Big Green tracksters ended up fourth with 31.5 tallies and the Pirates were fifth with 21.5 points.

There were three new PCL meet records set and as was expected all three new record holders are from the Bulldog team.

Senior Joe Green broke his own discus mark in the county event as the Bulldog weight man hurled the plate $151'11'_2$ ", breaking his record toss of last season by over six feet.

Another Bulldog weight man Jeff Auchmuty broke the old shot put mark set back in 1963. Auchmuty tossed the shot $51'9^{3}/4$ ", which broke the old mark of $50'2^{1}/2$ ".

John Parsons was the other record breaker as the junior Bulldog ran the 880 yard run in 2:02.8. The old mark was 2:04.5 set back in 1965.

Overall the county champs captured seven firsts while P-G collected four of their own. Ottoville added three more and Continental had one first. Leipsic, although coming in third place overall, did not have a boy win in his specialty as their team depth almost carried them to victory.

There were two boys who came out of the county meet as triple winners. CG's Tom Halker won the high and low hurdles and he also ran a leg on the winning mile relay team.

The other triple winner was Ottoville's Bob Klima. Klima captured firsts in the 220, 440 and pole vault events.

Dan Irwin was the other Bulldog to win his specialty as the sophomore distance runner won the two mile jaunt with a time of 10:14.2, just 11 seconds off of the county record.

Boys capturing firsts for the Rocket thinclads were Reese Snyder in the high jump, Jerry Payne in the 100 yard dash, Jim Kline in the mile run and their 880 relay squad.

Jeff Tegenkamp captured the lone first for the Continental Pirates and that came in the long jump with an 18'11³/₄" leap.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 65, Pandora-Gilboa 62, Leipsic 60, Ottoville 31.5 and Continental 21.5.

- *NR SHOT PUT, Jeff Auchmuty, CG, 51'9³/4".
- *NR DISCUS, Joe Green, CG, 151'11¹/₂".
- HIGH JUMP, Reese Snyder, P-G, 6'0".
- LONG JUMP, Jeff Tegenkamp, Continental, 18'11³/₄".
- POLE VAULT, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 11'3".
- 120 YARD HIGH HURDLES, Tom Halker, CG, 15.4.
- 180 YARD LOW HURDLES, Tom Halker, CG, 22.3.
- 100 YARD DASH, Jerry Payne, P-G, 10.8.
- 220 YARD DASH, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 23.6.
- 440 YARD DASH, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 53.1.
- *NR 880 YARD RUN, John Parsons, CG, 2:02.8.
- MILE RUN, Jim Kline, P-G, 4:48.5.
- TWO MILE RUN, Dan Irwin, CG, 10:14.2.
- 880 YARD RELAY, Tim Schumacher, Bill Seifer, Kent Arthur and Jerry Payne, P-G, 1:38.9.
- MILE RELAY, Mark Walls, Jack Ruen, John Parsons and Tom Halker, CG, 3:38.3.