Ottoville Boys Track Champs Again

Putnam County Sentinel – May 10, 1977

Ottoville boys did just as expected Wednesday afternoon, taking early leads with a strong showing in the field events and finishing well up in the sprint and distance races to grab top honors in the Putnam County Track Meet.

Ottoville amassed a 91 point total for the 15 events to win the boys division of the meet.

Ottoville's Wehri brother's combination of Joe and Ed paced the Big Green in the field events as Joe's 46'2¹/₂" toss in the shot earned a first place finish as Ed's 131'5¹/₂" mark in the discus captured another first. They traded places for second place efforts in the shot and discus while Kent Byrne and Jim Klima teamed up to finish one-two in the pole vault.

Ottoville's outstanding hurdler, Mike Heitmeyer, tied the meet record in the high hurdles with a 14.8 clocking.

Everett Seitz's record time of 14.6 in 1926 is now thought to be incorrect, but cannot be disproved. Thus Seitz's time of 14.6, Mike Nichols's time of 14.8 in 1970 and Mike Heitmeyer's time of 14.8 will be considered the same in order for all three boys to be recognized.

He returned in the 180 low hurdles to bring home another first with a time of 21.0 just .2 of a second off the record.

Brent Devitt proved another double winner for the Big Green with first place efforts in both the mile and two mile runs, establishing a new meet record in the mile with a time of 4:36.9 to wipe out the old mark of 4:40.3 set by Pandora-Gilboa's Don Bucher nine years ago. Devitt's 10:02.0 in the two mile also set a meet record that has stood for five years as Ft. Jennings's speedster, Tom Menke, held the old record at 10:03.4.

Ottoville recorded another first in the 880 relay to ice the win as P-G dominated the second and third place standings, collecting a total of 65 points to finish second in the meet. Keith Hall collected the Rockets; only first place honor of the day, running the 880 in 2:08.5.

Continental edged Leipsic, 36-32, for third place as sophomore sensation Kip Mansfield finished first in the long jump, 19'8", the 220 at 24.5 and the time of 15.7 in the high hurdles to account for 22 of Continental's 36 point total. Mansfield was the top performer in the meet.

Columbus Grove, which for years dominated the sport in Putnam County, managed a second and third place effort in the 440 to finish last in the five team meet with a 16 point total.

SUMMARY

Ottoville 91, Pandora-Gilboa 65, Continental 36, Leipsic 32 and Columbus Grove 16.

- SHOT PUT Joe Wehri (Ottoville) 46'2½" DISCUS - Ed Wehri (Ottoville) 131'5½" HIGH JUMP - Junior Worline (Continental) 6'0" LONG JUMP - Kip Mansfield (Continental) 19'8"
- POLE VAULT Kent Byrne (Ottoville) 11'6"
- *TR 120 Yd H. HURDLES Mike Heitmeyer (Otto) 14.8
- **RETIRED** 180 YARD LOW HURDLES Mike Heitmeyer (Ottoville) 21.0
- 100 YARD DASH Mark Reynolds (Leipsic) 10.25
- 220 YARD DASH Kip Mansfield (Continental) 24.5
- 440 YARD DASH Kip Mansfield (Continental) 54.4
- 880 YARD RUN Keith Hall (PG) 2:08.5
- *NR MILE RUN Brent Devitt (Ottoville) 4:36.9
- *NR TWO MILE RUN Brent Devitt (Otto) 10:02.0
- 880 YARD RELAY (Ottoville) 1:39.1
- MILE RELAY John Sands, Chris Pfahler, Curt Reichman and Mark Reynolds (Leipsic) 3:44.6