

# Grove Boys Use Sprints, Distance Events to Win

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For the average track fan it was rather simple to determine the keys to Columbus Grove winning the boy's portion of the Putnam County League meet Saturday: Jim Thompson in the sprints and Mondo Tijerina and Craig Smith in the distance events.

For Continental Coach Bob Baxter, however, he felt the key was 400 meter man Craig Walls. "Walls won the 400 and I thought beforehand he'd probably take third. That was the difference."

CG held on to edge Continental 84-82 and deny the Pirates a second straight title.

"That kind of surprised me (Walls' finish)", Grove Coach Tracy Brown stated. "And two of our guys in the long jump had best ever distances to get third and fourth places (Rob Edmiston and Mike Clymer). I figured it would be a close meet between us and Continental," Brown added. Pandora-Gilboa was a distant third with 38 points followed by Leipsic (34) and Ottoville (12).

The meet featured some excellent individual performances as well with Thompson setting a PCL standard in the 100 meters (10.9) and anchoring the 400 meter relay team that ran a record time of 46.1. He also won the 200 meters (22.8) and ran the last leg of the first place 1600 meter relay (3:42.1). Thompson is only a freshman.

"I don't remember any Class A runner in the last several years running under 11 seconds (in the 100 meters)," said Brown. "Thompson has done it as a freshman. That's something."

Another freshman set a new record. Chad Olds in the high jump went 6'4" to shatter the old mark of 6'2½". He nearly went 6'6" but caught the bar with his heels. "He had 6'6" cleared easily but just caught the bar," said Baxter. "And the amazing thing is that he also plays on the baseball team. About the only time I seem him is at the meets."

Chad Rigel of Leipsic missed by one-half inch of tossing the shot put 50-feet to easily win that event. The Viking junior also had a throw of 49'8".

"His goal has been 50 feet," remarked Coach Denny Phillips. "It'd be nice to see him get that in the upcoming Blanchard Valley Conference also with the districts and regionals. That would be enough to get him to Columbus (the state meet)."

Nathan Sprunger of Pandora-Gilboa, second to Thompson in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes (in races many figured

prior to the meet to be a tossup between the two stellar athletes) took the long jump at 20'1".

Continental's Steve Gibbs and CG's Mondo Tijerina each won two events: Gibbs the 110 meter highs and the pole vault; and Tijerina the 1600 and 3200 meter races. Gibbs added a third in the 400 meters and helped the 400 meter relay team land a runner-up finish.

"Steve made a sacrifice for the team by not running in a couple of his usual events," said Baxter. He wanted to do what was best team wise."

Tijerina was second in the 800 meters and was on the 3200 meter relay team that also took a second. Teammate Craig Smith was second to Tijerina in the 1600 and 3200 and ran on the 3200 meter relay team and was third in the 800.

"Those two guys did a heck of a job running 16 laps," said Brown. "They got us a lot of important points."

Columbus Grove won seven and Continental four of the 11 running events to dominate that department.

The Pirates added firsts in the pole vault and high jump. The two schools finished 1-2 in eight of the 11 running events. The only events where they did not at least get a first place was in the shot put, discus and long jump. PG's Scott Stall won the discus at 134'0". "There was lot of good competition out there," said Brown. "The fans got to see some very good races."

## SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 84, Continental 82, Pandora-Gilboa 38, Leipsic 34 and Ottoville 12.

SHOT PUT - Chad Rigel (Leipsic) 49'11½"

DISCUS - Nathan Sprunger (PG) 134'0"

\*NR HIGH JUMP - Chad Olds (Continental) 6'4"

LONG JUMP - Nathan Sprunger (PG) 20'1"

POLE VAULT - Steve Gibbs (Continental) 12'0"

110 M HIGH HURDLES - Steve Gibbs (Continental) 17.6

\*NR 300 M. ITERMED. HURDLES - Matt Frankart (Conti) 44.9

\*NR 100 METER DASH - Jim Thompson (CG) 10.9

200 METER DASH - Jim Thompson (CG) 22.8

400 METER DASH - Craig Walls (CG) 54.1

800 METER DASH - Randy Rue (Continental) 2:10.0

1600 METER RUN - Mondo Tijerina (CG) 4:52.7

3200 METER RUN - Mondo Tijerina (CG) 10:52.3

\*NR 400 METER RELAY - Mike Dunlap, Mike Griffith, Mike Clymer and Jim Thompson (CG) 46.1

1600 METER RELAY - Mike Dunlap, Greg Stever, Craig Walls and Jim Thompson (CG) 3:42.1

3200 METER RELAY - (Continental) 8:43.5