

Columbus Grove Boys Repeats as PCL Track Champions

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont Sport's Editor – May 10, 1993

The Putnam County League track meet returned to being held under the lights, but that didn't seem to bother the defending champions of this meet.

With the PCL meet being held under the lights for the first time, the Columbus Grove boys didn't let the move affect them as they repeated as league champions.

The Columbus Grove boys used their overall depth Friday night to collect their third straight PCL track title. The Bulldogs compiled 156 points to easily outdistance second place Pandora-Gilboa, which had 68 points. Third was Continental, which just slipped by Ottoville 45-44, while Leipsic was fifth with 17 points.

With everyone back from last season's championship team the Bulldogs scored in all 16 events Friday and had double placements in 10 of those events. The win was Columbus Grove's third straight big meet win, as they collected wins at the Liberty-Benton Invitational and the Diller Invitational before the PCL meet. They also have two second place finishes at big meets this season.

"Our depth has been a key all season," Grove coach Tracy Brown said. "This is probably the most well rounded team I have had since 1973 or 1974. We are very strong in the field events and can usually get double placements in those events. Plus we have some real good distance runners and two fine hurdlers that can score points for us. Our seniors also have done a good job of being leaders for this team."

In the field events junior Alex Moser collected a pair of wins as he won the shot put (50'8") and discus (138'4"). In the discus freshman Ben Maag was second (123'0"), while in the shot junior Chad Birnesser was third (44'0").

In the long jump the Bulldog's Nathan Price was second (18'8½") while teammate Thad Pingle was fourth (18'3"). In the high jump Pingle won as he cleared 6'0" and saw teammate Aaron Miller finish third (5'10").

In the pole vault the Bulldogs Brian Baxter won as he set the new meet standard of 13'1". The old record was 12'9" set by Ottoville's Jim Klima in 1979.

In the distance events Grove senior Matt Siefker picked up a pair of individual wins as he won the 1600 meter run in a time of 4:37.5, just off the meet record time of 4:36.9, set by Brett Devitt of Ottoville in 1977. Then in the 3200 meter run Siefker won with a time of 10:14.4.

Right behind Siefker in the 1600 run was freshman brother, Luke Siefker, as he finished with a time of 4:56.7. Then in the 3200 meter run senior teammate Mark Basinger was second with a time of 10:47.5.

The Bulldogs also won the 3200 meter relay as the team of Haedon Meyer, Nate Bonifas, Lee Brown and Steve Longwell won in a

time of 8:50.8. Longwell also won the 800 meter run winning with a time of 2:07.3, while Bonifas won the 400 meter run in a time of 55.5.

The Bulldogs Brian Baxter won the 110 meter high hurdles in a time of 16.3, while teammate Mike Baxter was third in a time of 16.7. These two runners then finished second and third, respectively, in a record setting 300 meter intermediate hurdle race.

In the 300 hurdles Pandora-Gilboa's Jason Hilty established a new county record of 43.1, breaking the 1990 record of 43.7 set by Nathan Neuenschwander of P-G. Second and third places also finished below the old record as Brian Baxter was second in 43.3 and Mike Baxter was third in 43.3.

This was not true. In 1990, Neuenschwander of PG, set the record, but the time was 42.7. Hilty did not set a new record.

The Rockets won five events on the day as Cory Ricker won both the 100 (11.6) and 200 (24.5), then anchored the Rockets 1600 meter relay team in a very close win over CG in the final event.

Ricker teamed with Ryan Redd, Hilty and Aaron Sommers to win with a time of 3:43.0, just edging the Bulldog team of Longwell, Meyer, Brown and Bonifas as they finished with a time of 3:43.1.

The Rockets 400 meter relay team of Sommers, Tim Suter, Hilty and Ricker also won in a time 47.2.

Continental's Andrew Dirr won the long jump with an effort of 19'8¾" as the Pirates collected one first place on the day.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 156, Pandora-Gilboa 68, Continental 45, Ottoville 44 and Leipsic 17.

SHOT PUT - Alex Moser (CG) 50'8"

DISCUS - Alex Moser (CG) 138'4"

HIGH JUMP - Thad Pingle (CG) 6'0"

LONG JUMP - Andrew Dirr (Continental) 19'8¾"

*NR POLE VAULT - Brian Baxter (CG) 13'1"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Brian Baxter (CG) 16.3

300 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Jason Hilty (PG) 43.1.

100 METER DASH - Cory Ricker (PG) 11.6

200 METER DASH - Cory Ricker (PG) 24.5

400 METER DASH - Nate Bonifas (CG) 55.5

800 METER RUN - Steve Longwell (CG) 2:07.3

1600 METER RUN - Matt Siefker (CG) 4:37.5

3200 METER RUN - Matt Siefker (CG) 10:14.4

400 METER RELAY - Aaron Sommers, Tim Suter, Jason Hilty and Cory Ricker (PG) 47.2

1600 METER RELAY - Cory Ricker, Ryan Redd, Jason Hilty and Aaron Sommers (PG) 3:43.0

3200 METER RELAY - Haedon Meyer, Nate Bonifas, Lee Brown and Steve Longwell (CG) 8:50.8