

Bulldog Boys Claim PCL Track Crown

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor – May 10, 1996

Just what will it take to dethrone Columbus Grove as champions of the Putnam County League Track and Field Meet?

Friday night, on their home track, the Grove boys rolled to the championship without much trouble.

The Bulldogs boys captured their sixth straight PCL crown as they scored 153 points to easily get past Pandora-Gilboa with 102 points. Ottoville was third with 40 points, Continental was fourth with 23 points and Leipsic was fifth with nine points.

While the Bulldog boys won last year's title by getting off to a good start in the field events, veteran Grove Coach Tracy Brown knew they would be important again this season. His team got the message as they placed in all five events and had double placements in four of the events.

"We did a real good job in the field events," said Brown. "Last year we were loaded in the field events, but this year I wasn't sure how we would do. I knew if we did well then we would be tough to catch since we are so deep in the distance events. We had several good efforts in the field events as several of the boys beat or were near their personal bests."

Senior Ben Maag led the Bulldogs field events parade as he won one event and placed second in another.

Maag won the discus for the second straight year as he recorded a meet and a school record throw of 169'4". The throw topped his 1995 record setting performance of 162'9" and came on his very first throw of the meet.

Maag then competed in the shot put and finished second to Continental's Tom Elkins. Elkins won the shot put with a throw of 49'0", while Maag was second with a toss of 48'5".

Aaron Brown was second in the discus with a throw of 152'11" and Harlan Austin was fourth in the shot with a throw of 47'3".

In the long jump the Bulldogs Chris McClure was second to Continental's Eric Kosch as Kosch jumped 19'¾" and McClure was second at 18'¾".

Jeff Smith won the pole vault having cleared 12'6" and Mike Armstrong was third at 10'6". In the high jump only three competitors cleared the opening height with the Bulldogs Brent Baxter winning the event having cleared 6'0" and Mike Sautter was third at 5'6". In between the two Bulldogs was Ottoville's Rodney Wenzlick at 5'10".

"Our shot and discus are pretty strong," said Brown. "Our one discus thrower (Maag) got off a pretty good first throw, and then they were pretty even. I knew the Elkins boy would be tough to beat in the shot since he has been throwing well all year, but we did a good job. Our high jumpers and long jumpers did a good job and our pole vaulters did a good job. Bob Baxter has done a good job working with our pole vaulters and jumpers. I have to give my assistant coaches a lot of credit as Bob works with the

vaulters and jumpers and Jerry Bunn does a good job with the distance runners.

Once the field events were finished the Bulldogs then turned the meet over to their distance crew. Columbus Grove won all the distance events and placed two individuals in each event.

Senior Luke Siefker won the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:40.3 and won the 800 meter run with a time of 2:07.8. In the 1600 meter run sophomore Chad Hermiller was seconds with a time of 4:41.7 and was fourth in the 800 with a time of 2:16.5.

In the 3200 meter run Jim Woten captured the win with a time of 10:24.8 and Greg Kamphaus was right behind him in 10:42.8.

The Bulldogs 3200 meter relay team of Woten, Kamphaus, Nate Irwin and Steve McCrate won with a time of 9:11.8 and Grove's 1600 meter relay team of Baxter, Mitch Giesige, Irwin and Siefker won with a time of 3:41.8.

The Bulldogs also picked up a win in the 300 intermediate hurdles as sophomore Brian Koch won with a time of 43.8. Koch also was third in the 110 hurdles with a time of 17.3.

Pandora-Gilboa picked five first place ribbons on the day led by Jesse Miller with three first place finishes.

Miller won the speed events winning the 100 meter dash in 11.5 and won the 200 meter dash in 24.3. Miller also won the 400 meter dash in 56.3. In both dash events the Rockets Joel Diller took second place running the 100 in 11.6 and the 200 in 24.3.

Tim Suter won the 110 meter high hurdles in 15.9 and P-G's 400 meter relay team won with a time of 47.4.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 153, Pandora-Gilboa 102, Ottoville 40, Continental 23 and Leipsic 9.

SHOT PUT - Tom Elkins (Continental) 49'0"

*NR DISCUS - Ben Maag (CG) 169'4"

HIGH JUMP - Brent Baxter (CG) 6'0"

LONG JUMP - Eric Kosch (Continental) 19'¾"

POLE VAULT - Jeff Smith (CG) 12'6"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Tim Suter (PG) 15.9

300 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Brian Koch (CG) 43.8

100 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 11.5

200 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 24.3

400 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 56.1

800 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 2:07.8

1600 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 4:40.3

3200 METER RUN - Jim Woten (CG) 10:24.8

400 METER RELAY - Brian Kempf, Steve Ferguson, Joel Diller and Jesse Miller (PG) 47.4

1600 METER RELAY - Brent Baxter, Mitch Giesige, Nate Irwin and Luke Siefker (CG) 3:41.8

3200 METER RELAY - Jim Woten, Greg Kamphaus, Nate Irwin and Steve McCrate (CG) 9:11.8