

Depth Key for Bulldog Boys

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 7, 2000

Columbus Grove's depth has been key to their long winning streak in the Putnam County League. The Bulldogs used that depth Friday night to win their tenth straight PCL track and field championship on Columbus Grove's new all-weather track.

Although three teams scored over 100 points Friday night, the Bulldogs had a comfortable margin of victory as they scored 142 points. P-G finished second as they compiled 117 points and Continental was third with 110 points. Ottoville finished fourth with 95 points, Leipsic was fifth with 21 points and Ft. Jennings was sixth with seven points.

"Going in I thought our depth would be the difference," Columbus Grove coach Tracy Brown said. "There were a lot of good individuals coming in talent wise. I felt P-G and Continental had a good chance of beating us. I reminded the guys we were trying for our tenth straight win. It's been that way the last few years. If you have depth you can get your share of first and second places. But if you hang in there and score in a lot of events that is key."

The field events were important to the Bulldogs as they were able to win two of the five and get double placements in three of them. The surprise may have come in the pole vault as Columbus Grove went one-two when Continental's Dusty Konkright no-heighted in the event. This opened the door for Grove's Tony Moore to take the win and John Meffley to finish second as they both cleared 12'0".

Kyle Altstaetter then won the high jump as he cleared 6'2" and Mike Fuerst finished fourth clearing 5'10". The Bulldog's Louie Schroeder and Adam Hooker finished fifth and sixth in the discus event. "When the vaulter from Continental no-heighted, that was big," Brown said. "That allowed us to go one-two and they got nothing. In the shot and discus we weren't real high, but you still can nickel and dime people to death. I emphasize scrapping for every point you can get. That single point, sixth place, can be the difference in the meet."

With the Bulldogs setting the table in the field events they turned the meet over to their sprinters and distance runners. Bryan Troyer helped his team as he had a hand in three wins Friday and Columbus Grove won Friday and Columbus Grove won two of the distance events. Troyer won both hurdle events as he won the 110 high hurdles in a time of 16.1 and then won the 300 hurdles in a time of 42.4. Troyer also finished second in the 400 meter run (51.9) before helping Lance Heffner, Adam Ream and D.J. Clevenger to win in the 1600 meter relay in a record time of 3:32.3.

Columbus Grove also won the 3200 meter relay with a time of 8:37.2. This group included Clevenger, Nate Lehman, Chas Howard and Ream. Clevenger picked up an individual event win in the 800 meter run as he won with a time of 2:05.7.

"Bryan Troyer had a banner day," Tracy added. "He won both hurdle events, anchored the 1600 meter relay and was second in the 400. I thought if we could hang with P-G and Ottoville in the field events, we could get help in the sprints. I knew the distance runners would take over."

Pandora-Gilboa won four events as Ryan Nusbaum had a hand in three of the four wins. Nusbaum won the 200 meter dash in a time

of 11.4 and then won the 200 dash in a time of 23.1. Nusbaum then joined Doug Hartzler, Andy Augsburg and Nathan Amstutz in winning the 400 meter relay in a time of 44.8, just a tenth of a second off of their record setting time of 44.7 in 1988.

Andy Grubb won the discus event as he had a throw of 164'5". Grubb had his winning throw on his very first attempt after Ottoville's Brian Knippen had equaled Grubb's previous best on his final throw.

Knippen finished second twice in the meet as he was the runner-up in the discus with a throw of 163'9" and was second in the shot put with a throw of 55'3/4".

Continental's Ken Diltz won the shot put as he set a new record along the way. Diltz had a throw of 55'6 3/4" for his best effort of the season.

The Pirates' Josh Allen won the long jump as he had a leap of 20'4 3/4" beating teammate Joel Rue by three inches (20'1 3/4"). Jeff Collins won the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:07.4.

Ottoville's Jay Clementz was second in the 3200 meter run, but had already won the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:31.5 to set a new league record. Ryan Burgei won the 400 meter dash in a time of 50.7.

This article was inaccurate when it stated that Clementz set a new record for the 1600 meter run. This record was set in 1988 by Mondo Tijerina of Columbus Grove with a time of 4:27.9

The Bulldogs now begin preparations for the NWC meet to be held Saturday at Spencerville. The Rockets and Vikings will be in action Friday at the Blanchard Valley Conference meet in Findlay at Donnell Stadium.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 142, Pandora-Gilboa 117, Continental 110, Ottoville 95, Leipsic 21 and Fort Jennings 7.

*NR SHOT PUT - Ken Diltz (Continental) 55'6 3/4"

DISCUS - Andy Grubb (PG) 164'5"

HIGH JUMP - Kyle Altstaetter (CG) 6'2"

LONG JUMP - Josh Allen (Continental) 20'4 3/4"

POLE VAULT - Tony Moore (CG) 12'0"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Bryan Troyer (CG) 16.1

300 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Bryan Troyer (CG) 42.4

100 METER DASH - Ryan Nusbaum (PG) 11.4

200 METER DASH - Ryan Nusbaum (PG) 23.1

400 METER DASH - Ryan Burgei (Ottoville) 50.7

800 METER RUN - D. J. Clevenger (CG) 2:05.7

1600 METER RUN - Jay Clementz (Ottoville) 4:31.5

3200 METER RUN - Jeff Collins (Continental) 10:07.4

400 METER RELAY - Ryan Nusbaum, Doug Hartzler, Andy Augsburg and Nathan Amstutz (PG) 44.8

*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Bryan Troyer, Lance Heffner, Adam Ream and D. J. Clevenger (CG) 3:32.3

3200 METER RELAY - D. J. Clevenger, Nate Lehman, Chas Howard and Adam Ream (CG) 8:37.2