

Balance Key for Grove Boys as They Repeat in PCL Track

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Columbus Grove continued their dominance of Putnam County League track as the Bulldogs repeated as champions. The Bulldogs showed their overall balance as they may not have won every event, but it was their placements and double placements that helped them pull away from the field.

The Grove boys won their side of the meet with 191 points, while Continental finished second with 105 points. Ottoville finished third with 76 points, while Pandora-Gilboa had 51 points, Leipsic had 43 points and Fort Jennings had 25 points.

“I think we probably put together the best team we’ve had all year,” Grove Coach Tracy Brown said. “We knew we could do that; they just finally jelled as a team. I was pleased with the overall team effort. That’s what we’ve always tried to do here is develop an overall team. You can nickel and dime people to death, even if you don’t always win every event, if you end up getting thirds and fourths it mounts up.”

If there was one area that surprised Brown Friday night it was his sprinters. The Bulldogs won a handful of events and placed two runners in the 100 meter dash. “My sprinters surprised me a little bit,” Brown admitted. “In the 200 I was surprised with their times. Lance Heffner had a 23.23 and Brian Hermon had a 23.7; those are nice times. The quarter relay improved their time by a second and the mile relay ran great.”

Heffner led the Bulldog sprinters with a hand in three wins. He won the 400 meter dash with a time of 51.44 and then won the 200 in a time of 23.23 followed by Hermon in 23.7. He then joined Kyle Altstaetter, D.J. Clevenger and Adam Ream to win the 1600 relay with a time of 3:32.75.

In the 400 relay the Bulldogs took first place with a time of 45.25. That squad included Hermon, B. Stechschulte, T. Miller and Steve Palte.

Tayt Mayberry won the 300 hurdles in a time of 42.24, while Hermon and Palte went three and four in the 100 dash.

Columbus Grove got a solid start in the field events behind the record-setting effort of Adam Stechschulte and two wins from Blake Maag.

Stechschulte won the pole vault as he cleared 13’9¼” to set a new meet record. The old record was 13’9” set in 1999 by Dusty Conkright of Continental.

Maag won the shot put with a throw of 54’3½” and he won the discus with a throw of 160’10” his best efforts of the season.

The Bulldogs’ distance crew did its job winning the 3200 relay, 1600 and 3200 meter runs. The 3200 meter crew of Clevenger, Ream, B. Stechschulte and Eric Altstaetter won with a time of 8:46.54. Chad Irwin won the 1600 meter run in 4:38.87 and Greg Barkimer won the 3200 meter run in 10:14.21 after taking second in the 1600 meter run.

Leipsic’s Jay Beckman won the long jump Friday with a leap of 20’10¾” and teammate Josh Schroeder won the 100 with a time of 11.43 with Beckman taking second.

Continental’s Joe Boecker won the high jump as he cleared 6’4”, while Fort Jennings’ Greg Wittler won the 110 high hurdles in 16.58. Ottoville’s Brett Klima won the 800 meter run in a time of 2:01.68.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 191, Continental 105, Ottoville 76, Pandora-Gilboa 51, Leipsic 43 and Fort Jennings 25.

SHOT PUT - Blake Maag (CG) 54’3½”

DISCUS - Blake Maag (CG) 160’10”

HIGH JUMP - Joe Boecker (Continental) 6’4”

LONG JUMP - Jay Beckman (Leipsic) 20’10¾”

*NR POLE VAULT - Adam Stechschulte (CG) 13’9¼”

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Greg Wittler (FJ) 16:58

300 M. INTER HURDLES - Tayt Mayberry (CG) 42.24

100 METER DASH - Josh Schroeder (Leipsic) 11:43

200 METER DASH - Lance Heffner (CG) 23.23

400 METER DASH - Lance Heffner (CG) 51.44

*NR 800 METER RUN - Brett Klima (Ottoville) 2:01.68

1600 METER RUN - Chad Irwin (CG) 4:38.87

3200 METER RUN - Greg Barkimer (CG) 10:14.21

400 METER RELAY - Brian Hermon, Ben Stechschulte,
Trevor Miller and Steve Palte (CG) 45.25

1600 METER RELAY - Lance Heffner, Kyle Altstaetter,
D.J. Clevenger and Adam Ream (CG) 3:32.75

3200 METER RELAY - D.J. Clevenger, Adam Ream,
Ben Stechschulte & Eric Altstaetter (CG) 8:46.54