

# Balance Keys Grove Boys

## Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 15, 2002

Long before Columbus Grove set a new county record in the 1600 meter relay, they had broken the five teams chasing them. The Bulldogs placed at least two athletes in 12 events Friday evening as they won the Putnam County League track meet for the 12<sup>th</sup> straight year. The win also gave veteran Grove coach Tracy Brown a proper sendoff. Brown is retiring the end of the school year after 33 years at Columbus Grove.

With their balance, the Bulldogs scored 192 points as they outdistanced second place Ottoville with 108 points, Continental finished third with 77 points, Pandora-Gilboa was fourth with 59 and Leipsic was fifth with 31 points. Fort Jennings was sixth in the field with 23 points.

“It seems like we have good, consistent track here at Columbus Grove,” Brown said. “We get the kids out and they do a good job. They work hard and take a lot of pride in track, not that the others don’t. It is important to the kids to have a good track team. Also I have a bunch of great, assistant coaches in Jerry Bunn, Bob Baxter, Jerry Cooper and Howard Foltz on the junior high level. The community also gets behind us and that’s a big help.”

While the Bulldogs placed at least two athletes in 12 events, there was no particular area that carried Grove to the win. Overall, the Bulldogs scored well in all phases of the meet, field events, sprints and distance events. “We really try to develop an all-around team and I think that’s been our key,” Brown said. “We’ve gotten a lot of points this season in the field events and that has been the difference.”

Columbus Grove won just of the field events, although they placed two individuals in all five events.

Senior Blake Maag won both field events for the Bulldogs winning the shot put and discus. Maag won the shot put as he rallied in the finals for a throw of 54’2” and the win. In the discus, Maag collected a win with a throw of 161’8” followed by freshman brother, Blaine, in second place with a throw of 157’0”.

The Bulldogs had a 57-46 lead after the field events, as the Big Green also had two wins in the field events, but on the track Columbus Grove won 10 events to steadily pull away.

Senior Lance Heffner paced the Bulldogs track wins with four overall, two individual and two relays. Heffner won the 100 dash in 11.4 beating P-G’s Caleb Arthur (11.5) to the line. Heffner also won the 400 dash in a time of 51.1.

The senior then joined Ben Stechschulte, Trevor Miller and Steve Palte to win the 400 relay in a time of 45.3 as they nipped Pandora-Gilboa at the line. Both teams finished the race with the same time.

In the final event of the day, the 1600 relay, Heffner anchored the team of Ben Stechschulte, Miller and Tayt Mayberry to record time of 3:28.5, crushing the old record by six seconds.

Miller also won the 200 dash in a time of 23.3 and Mayberry won the 300 hurdles in a record time of 41.3. Blaine Maag finished second in the 300 hurdles with a time of 43.2.

Ben Stechschulte helped all three relays to wins as he joined Nate Schumacher, Andy Dunn and Eric Altstaetter to a win in the 3200 relay with a time of 8:52.1.

Danny Woods won the 110 high hurdles with a time of 16.8 as he edged out teammate Kyle Koch (17.1). Mike Knott won the 3200 run for the Bulldogs with a time of 10:12.4.

Ottoville’s Brett Klima helped pace Ottoville to the runner up spot with a pair of record setting performances. Overall, the Big Green had three wins in the meet. Klima opened his day by setting a new record in the pole vault clearing 13’9½”. He defeated the Bulldogs Adam Stechschulte as he cleared 13’6”.

Klima then broke the record in the 800 run as he won with a time of 2:01.1. He won by nearly three seconds as Continental’s Adam Donaldson was second with a time of 2:03.9.

Ottoville’s third win came in the high jump as Keith Ricker won as he cleared 6’2”, four inches better than second place Caleb Arthur of P-G.

Continental’s Jeff Collins won the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:43.5 as he ran away from the field to win by 16 seconds. Collins then finished second in the 3200 meter run.

The final event win was by Leipsic’s Jay Beckman in the long jump. Beckman won the event with a leap of 20’6¼”.

### SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 192, Ottoville 108, Continental 77, Pandora-Gilboa 59, Leipsic 31 and Fort Jennings 23.

SHOT PUT - Blake Maag (CG) 54’2”

DISCUS - Blake Maag (CG) 161’8”

HIGH JUMP - Keith Ricker (Ottoville) 6’2”

LONG JUMP - Jay Beckman (Leipsic) 20’6¼”

\*NR POLE VAULT - Brett Klima (Ottoville) 13’9½”

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Danny Woods (CG) 16.8

\*NR 300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Tayt Mayberry (CG) 41.3

100 METER DASH - Lance Heffner (CG) 11.4

200 METER DASH - Trevor Miller (CG) 23.3

400 METER DASH - Lance Heffner (CG) 51.1

\*NR 800 METER RUN - Brett Klima (Ottoville) 2:01.1

1600 METER RUN - Jeff Collins (Continental) 4:43.5

3200 METER RUN - Mike Knott (CG) 10:12.4

400 METER RELAY - Lance Heffner, Ben Stechschulte, Trevor Miller and Steve Palte (CG) 45.3

\*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Lance Heffner, Ben Stechschulte, Trevor Miller and Tayt Mayberry (CG) 3:28.5

3200 METER RELAY - Ben Stechschulte, Nate Schumacher, Andy Dunn and Eric Altstaetter (CG) 8:52.1