

Bulldogs Win 13th Straight PCL Boys Track Title

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Columbus Grove and Continental both recorded five event wins at the Putnam County league track and field meet Friday evening. With both teams being the same there, the difference in the meet came down to depth. The Bulldogs showed a little more depth than the Pirates to claim their 13th straight league championship.

Grove repeated as PCL champions as they scored 176.5 points, while the Pirates settled for second place with 113 points. Pandora-Gilboa took third place with 88 points followed by Ottoville with 64.5 points, Fort Jennings had 43 points for fifth place and Leipsic grabbed sixth place with six points.

“I don’t know if we have a ton of super great events, but our kids are solid all the way through and that’s a plus,” first year Columbus Grove coach Jerry Cooper said. “We have great jumpers, throwers, sprinters and distance runners. Every team has one or two events they may be strong in, but not many teams can say that for 10-11-12 events. We are solid in many events and that was the difference in the meet. Our balance and depth paid off.”

Wins for the Bulldogs were varied as they won two sprint events, two distance events and one field event. They also managed nine runner-up positions and had 12 double placements as they scored in every event.

While the Bulldogs were relying on their balance and depth, three athletes, Phil Basinger, Trevor Miller and Blaine Maag, all had a hand in two wins.

Basinger’s two wins came in distance events, the 1600 and 3200 meter runs. Basinger won the 1600 and 3200 meter runs. Basinger won the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:47.0, then won the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:26.80. Kyle Smith finished second in the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:38.90, while Nate Schumacher was third in the 1600 (4:54.10).

Miller and Maag combined for one of their wins in the 400 relay. The two combined with Steve Palte and Tayt Mayberry to win the 400 relay in a meet record time of 44.20. Miller also established a new record in the 200 dash with a time of 22.80. He also finished second in the 100 dash with a time of 11.20.

This was not true. Miller did not set a new 200 meter dash record. The record was held by Gene Shawber of Leipsic who ran a 22.5 in 1963

Maag won the discus with a throw of 164.4. Maag also finished second in the shot put with a throw of 48’7 ½” while Mayberry finished second in the discus with a throw of 154’5 ¾”.

“Track is as much about depth and balance rather than being good in several events,” Cooper said. “We had athletes finishing one-three, one-two and two-three. We switched our lineup some as we didn’t have our best athletes in events they would normally run. Trevor looked good in the 200, our 4x100 team set a record and the 4x400 team looked really good. Also Woods and Baxter looked good in the hurdles and our distance runners did really well. Tayt and Blaine are good athletes and put up points every week which is a big help in getting us started in the field events.”

Other second place showing for the Bulldogs came from the 1600 meter relay team of Woods, Taylor Jesko, Ben Stechschulte and Miller. The 3200 meter relay team consisted of Andy Dunn,

Schumacher, Kyle Smith and Matt Heffner. Justin Barto took second in the high jump (5’10”) and Maag in the shot.

The Pirate wins also were spread out as they won two distance events, two field events and a sprint race. Nik Newman was a double winner winning the 110 high hurdles (15.20) and long jump (21’3 ¾”). He also finished second in the 200 dash (22.90) with a time that tied the previous meet record and he was third in the 100 dash (41.36).

Adam Donaldson won the 800 meter run with a time of 2:03.30 after joining Bruce Luersman, Chance Worline and Nick Hanefeld to win the 3200 meter relay with a time of 8:39.30. Tyler Donaldson also won the pole vault as he cleared 11’0”.

Continental coach Martin Miller was pleased with his team’s performance at the meet. “I thought we could get enough points to finish in second place,” Martin said. “You want to go into a meet thinking you can win it, but Columbus Grove is just so deep it makes it difficult to do that. I felt we had several good performances during the meet. We were able to win a few events and several of the kids were able to bring their times down along the way which is always good to see.”

Pandora-Gilboa’s Jon Amstutz and Caleb Arthur both had a hand in two of the Rockets’ three wins Friday night. Amstutz won the 400 meter dash in a time of 50.10 and then teamed with Arthur, John Nash and Brett Siefer to win the 1600 meter relay in a time of 3:25.40. Arthur also won the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.10.

Ottoville posted a pair of wins as Keith Ricker won the high jump and Matt Knippen the shot put. Ricker won the high jump as he cleared 5’10” and Knippen won the shot put with a throw of 53’11 ¾”.

Fort Jennings’ Jacob Shelly won the 300 intermediate hurdles with a time of 41.90.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 176.5, Continental 143, Pandora-Gilboa 88, Ottoville 64.5, Fort Jennings 43 and Leipsic 6.

SHOT PUT - Matt Knippen (Ottoville) 53’11¾”

DISCUS - Blaine Maag (CG) 164’1”

HIGH JUMP - Keith Ricker (Ottoville) 5’10”

LONG JUMP - Nik Newman (Continental) 21’3¾”

POLE VAULT - Tyler Donaldson (Continental) 11’0”

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Nik Newman (Conti) 15.2

300 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Jacob Shelly (FJ) 41.9

100 METER DASH - Caleb Arthur (PG) 11.1

200 METER DASH - Trevor Miller (CG) 22.8

400 METER DASH - Jon Amstutz (PG) 50.1

800 METER RUN - Adam Donaldson (Continental) 2:03.3

1600 METER RUN - Phil Basinger (CG) 4:47.0

3200 METER RUN - Phil Basinger (CG) 10:26.8

*NR 400 METER RELAY - Trevor Miller, Blaine Maag, Steve Palte and Tayte Mayberry (CG) 44.2

*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Jon Amstutz, Caleb Arthur, John Nash and Brett Siefer (PG) 3:25.4

3200 METER RELAY, Adam Donaldson, Bruce Luersman, Chance Worline and Nick Hanefeld, Conti, 8:39.3.