

P-G Wins PCL by Beating C.G. in Boy's Track

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Pandora-Gilboa and Ottoville both had their work cut out for them after the field events Friday. Both teams trailed defending Putnam County League track and field champions Columbus Grove by huge margins. That didn't matter as the teams made their adjustments on the track to overcome the Bulldogs leads and end their dominance of the meet.

The P-G boys put together a strong finish in the running events as they steadily pulled away from Grove for a 166-130 win on the boy's side. Leipsic finished third with 83 points and Ottoville was fourth with 78 points.

"Our spirits were high coming into the meet," P-G Coach Jayson Dupuis said. "After the field events, our spirits went from high to shockingly low because we heard how big a spread it was. We knew they still had a stud athlete, like (Heath) Nickles in the hurdles and some good sprinters. We knew we would have to get two places in the sprints and distance events and they put it together. They rallied behind each other pretty good."

What helped the Rockets was the fact they took the top two spots in the final three individual events of the night, the 800, 200 and 3200. They also finished third in the 1600 relay, one spot behind the Bulldogs for good measure.

In the 800 run, sophomore Thomas Hochstettler (2:07.9) and senior Derek Niese (2:08.6) went one-two, while sophomores Sam Spallinger (23.2) and Derek Morrison (24.2) did the same in the 200. In the 3200 meter run, seniors Tyler Latham (11:04.4) and Andy Schaublin (11:10.0) helped complete the turnaround by grabbing the top two spots.

The Rockets then cemented their comeback as Justin Maag, Levi Arthur, Niese and Hochstettler finished third with a time of 3:44.10.

"The last three races helped us pull it out," Dupuis said. "They really stepped it up and went one-two in all three races to bring us back. Our guys knew what they needed to do."

Spallinger had a banner evening for the Rockets as he won four events. He opened by winning the long (20'8½"), then capturing titles in the 100 (11.2), 200 (23.2) and 400 (51.1). "Sam had a good night," Dupuis said. "Even with that we didn't know if that would be enough to overcome the field event deficit. The sprinters and distance guys all stepped up and we did a nice job in the relays."

The Rockers 3200 relay team set a new meet record Friday night by running an 8:25.10 to win by 26 seconds. The time broke Continental's 1988 record of 8:32.0.

P-G also won the 800 relay in 1:37.0 with Ross Diller, Arthur, Austin Dailey and Morrison running the event, while Diller, Mat Kohli, Arthur and Morrison won the 400 relay in 46.2.

While Spallinger won four events, the Bulldog's Nickles won three events as he set a pair of meet records.

His first meet record of the meet was in the pole vault as he cleared 15'7" to break his own record of 15'5" in 2007. The Ohio State bound senior then attempted to clear a state record height of 16'1¼", just missing the height on his final attempt as his arm brushed the bar on his way down knocking it off.

"I was already starting to celebrate when I brushed the bar with my arm and knocked it off," Nickles said. "I was over it (the height), but I didn't know quite what to do. I went to my 16 foot pole and I'm not quite as comfortable with it yet. I don't get on it a lot in practice because you need the adrenaline pumping to get on a pole like that. Once I get comfortable with it, like my other poles, there are going to be some high vaults."

The other record came in the 300 hurdles as Nickles won with a time of 39.5 to set a new record. The old record was 40 seconds by Nickles last season. In the 110 hurdles, the senior won with a time of 15.0.

Columbus Grove won four of the five field events as Dylan Vogt, a sophomore, captured the shot put (48'6½") and the discus (160'2") and Derek Schroeder the high jump (6'0"). Risser (11'0") finished second in the pole vault and Drew Barto was second in the long jump (20'2¾"). Vogt won the shot put on the last throw as he edged the Rockets T.J. Boes (48'4¼") for the top spot. Boes is just a freshman for the Rockets.

Leipsic's Derrick Schroeder won the 1600 meter run (4:52.7) and Continental won the 1600 relay in 3:37 behind Tanner Basinger, Damon Schmidt, Dustin Geckle and Michael Recker.

SUMMARY

Pandora-Gilboa 166, Columbus Grove 130, Leipsic 83, Ottoville 78, Continental 42 and Fort Jennings 24.

SHOT PUT - Dylan Vogt (CG) 48'6½"
DISCUS - Dylan Vogt (CG) 160'2"
HIGH JUMP - Derek Schroeder (CG) 6'0"
LONG JUMP - Sam Spallinger (PG) 20'8½"
*NR POLE VAULT - Heath Nickles (CG) 15'7"
110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Heath Nickles (CG) 15.0
*NR 300 M. INTERM HURDLES - Heath Nickles (CG) 39.50
100 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 11.20
200 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 23.20
400 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 51.10
800 METER RUN - Tom Hochstettler (PG) 2:07.90
1600 METER RUN - Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 4:52.70
3200 METER RUN - Tyler Latham (PG) 11:04.40
400 METER RELAY - Ross Diller, Matt Kohli, Levi Arthur and Derek Morrison (PG) 46.20
800 METER RELAY - Ross Diller, Levi Arthur, Austin Dailey and Derek Morrison (PG) 1:37.0
1600 METER RELAY - Tanner Basinger, Damon Schmidt, Dustin Geckle & Michael Recker (Continental) 3:37.0
*NR 3200 METER RELAY - Justin Maag, Josh Augsburger, Derek Niese and Tom Hochstettler (PG) 8:25.10