

Spallinger Leads P-G to PCL Title

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To put the Putnam County League's longest standing track and field record in perspective, Pandora-Gilboa junior Sam Spallinger knew it was set the year before his grandfather was born in 1923.

Friday night he Rockets' junior standout ended Lowe's reign as the long jump record holder as the Putnam County League track and field meet was held at Ottoville's Bob Kaple Track and Field Complex. That was just the start for Spallinger as he won four events overall and broke two meet records in helping the Rockets retain their PCL championship.

In a tight race the Rockets retained their PCL championship scoring 135 points to outdistance runner-up Leipsic with 122 points and Columbus Grove with 114 points.

Spallinger has consistently been jumping in the mid 21 foot range this season, but had not reached Lowe's 1922 mark of 21'11½" in any meet leading up to the PCL's Friday night. But on his second jump of the night he tied the 87 year old mark. On his second jump in the finals he broke the states longest standing league record as he soared 22'2". He passed on his final jump of the competition to save himself for the rest of the night.

"It was important to me coming in as a junior," Spallinger said. "I wanted to break it knowing I had a chance to break it. I wouldn't have been devastated (to not break it), but I don't know if I would have performed as well as I did. This was the farthest I had jumped all season (he said of his jump of 21'11½"). It made me want it that much more because I didn't want to be the guy who did it second; I wanted to be the guy to jump that far first. It made me want it more."

This was not true. In 1923, Owen Lowe of Continental set the long jump record with a leap of 20'11½". However, a few years later the newspapers of that time period incorrectly listed his record setting leap at 21'11½" and stated that it happened in 1922. In 1955, Larry Johnson broke the record with a leap of 21'4", but it was never recognized. Lowe only held the record for 32 years (1923-1954) while Johnson held it for 54 years (1955-2008).

The win by Spallinger in the long jump was the first of four victories by the junior Friday night and six overall by the Rockets. P-G also had to overcome some adversity Friday evening as they had a pair of relay teams disqualified in the meet and they were late getting there as their bus was involved in a minor accident leaving for the meet.

"We knew it was going to be a tight race," P-G Coach Jeff Diller said. "Grove is coming on strong and Leipsic has given us fits all year long. It was a little hectic getting here tonight, but we pulled it off. The kids have been working hard all season towards this. They do what we ask them to do and they don't complain. All that hard work has paid off and I'm really proud of them."

Besides setting a record in the long jump, Spallinger also broke the 200 dash record as he won with a time of 22.02. He also won the 100 in 10.96 and the 400 dash in 51.24. "Sam was awesome," Diller said. "To get 40 points right off the top from him, you can't go wrong with a kid like him. He is having a phenomenal year."

The Rockets 400 relay team of Joliffe Aldridge, Austin Dailey, Ross Diller and Derek Morrison won in 45.96 and Thomas Hochstettler won the 800 in 1:59.60.

Leipsic stayed on the heels of P-G with five wins as Derrick Schroeder had a hand in three of the wins and Jason Butler won both hurdle events.

Schroeder, a junior, won the 1600 (4:41.62) and 3200 (11:01.43) meter runs and anchored the winning 3200 relay team of Sonny Hernandez, Nate Nuveman and Jacob Schroeder in 8:38.70. Butler won both hurdle events as he took the 110's in 15.82 and the 300 hurdles in 41.37.

Columbus Grove also won five events as Dylan Vogt was a double winner in the field events taking the shot put with a throw of 49'2¼" and the discus with a throw of 148'0". Wade Heffner, Drew Barto, Rayce Risser and Derek Schroeder won the 800 relay (1:34.87), while Heffner, Risser, Sam Carpenter and Schroeder won the 1600 relay in 3:36.31. Schroeder won the high jump as he cleared 6'4".

Ottoville collected one win Friday night as Logan Klima out dueled the Bulldogs' Tyler Wolfe after both cleared 13'0".

SUMMARY

Pandora-Gilboa 135, Leipsic 122, Columbus Grove 114, Ottoville 86.5, Continental 36.5 and Fort Jennings 26.

SHOT PUT - Dylan Vogt (CG) 49'2¼"
DISCUS - Dylan Vogt (CG) 148'0"
HIGH JUMP - Derek Schroeder (CG) 6'4"
*NR LONG JUMP - Sam Spallinger (PG) 22'2"
POLE VAULT - Logan Klima (Ottoville) 13'0"
110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Jason Butler - Leipsic (15.82)
300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Jason Butler (Leipsic) 41.37
100 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 10.96
*NR 200 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 22.02
400 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 51.24
*NR 800 METER RUN - Thomas Hochstettler (PG) 1:59.60
1600 METER RUN - Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 4:41.62
3200 METER RUN - Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 11:01.43
400 METER RELAY - Joliffe Aldridge, Austin Dailey, Ross Diller and Derek Morrison (PG) 45.96
800 METER RELAY - Wade Heffner, Drew Barto, Rayce Risser and Derek Schroeder (CG) 1:34.87
1600 METER RELAY - Wade Heffner, Rayce Risser, Sam Carpenter and Derek Schroeder (CG) 3:36.31
3200 METER RELAY - Sonny Hernandez, Nate Nuveman, Jacob Schroeder, Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 8:38.70