

Pandora-Gilboa Repeats in the PCL

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 12, 2010

Pandora-Gilboa's boys and Ottoville's girls took different routes to Putnam County League titles Friday.

The Rockets rode the strength of their runners to overcome Columbus Grove's advantage in the field events to repeat as league champions. Meanwhile, the Big Green used a balanced team effort to grab another PCL championship.

The Rocket boys trailed the Bulldogs after the field events, but took control of the meet on the track to win the meet with 144 points and defeat second place Leipsic with 119 points. The Bulldogs were third with 110 points.

P-G recorded one field event win and a pair of runner-up finishes to be in second place behind the Bulldogs when the running events started. On the track, the Rockets picked up another six wins led by senior Sam Spallinger, who won three events, including a pair of record setting performances. Spallinger also won the Rockets only field event, which also produced a record.

"I was actually worried coming in as I knew Columbus Grove would make a run for it as they are a very well stacked team across the board," Rucker coach Jeff Diller said. "And Leipsic has a good team as well. But we were able to come and perform well and pull it off."

Spallinger capped a brilliant four year run in the PCL championships by winning the 100 and 200 for a fourth time along with the 400 and long jump for a third straight season. His freshmen year he was on two winning relay teams to complete his sweep. And while a strong wind from the south greeted runners down the home stretch the Rocket senior was able to walk off the track with three meet records.

Spallinger started his outstanding day by winning the long jump with a leap of 23-2 which broke his own league record by nearly a foot. Spallinger broke the meets 87 year old record last year, then

broke that record on his first attempt of the night on what he considered his worst (technically) jump of the event.

"I didn't really have great form or mechanics on that jump," Spallinger said. "It felt really good and I was in a good mood. After that I felt I could go farther, but I was really excited and couldn't get calmed down to get another good jump."

On the track, Spallinger was solid as he won the 100 in 11.4. He finished his night by winning the 200 and 400 meter dashes, both in record setting fashion. Spallinger won the 200 in 21.8 to break his own record set last year and he finished his day by breaking the 47 year old record in the 400 with a time of 49.70. Spallinger admitted to wanting to break the 400 record and with the wind felt his first 200 would be key if he was to break it.

"My goal was to run a 47," Spallinger said. "I knew if I was to get it I would have to run a 22 second split in the first 200 with this wind. I was close to that, but there a little too much wind to get my second split around 25. I was happy with breaking the record though."

"I know he's capable of setting a record every time he runs," Diller said. "Facing that kind of headwind today and to finish as strong as he finished in those races was impressive."

Senior Thomas Hochstettler had a hand in two of the Rockets wins as he won the 800 in 2:04.5 after joining Isaac Honigford, Austin Dailey and Derek Morrison to win the 800 Relay in 1:35.30. Hochstettler also finished second in the high jump clearing 6-2.

The final Rocket win came in the 400 Relay as Ross Hovest, Sam Tijerina, Dailey and Honigford won in 46.60.

"I know he was a little disappointed he didn't win the high jump," Diller said of Hochstettler. "He's

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been working hard in the 800 trying to get his time down and he has some tired legs right now, but he'll be back in the high jump once he gets a little rest."

Columbus Grove had the lead after the field events as they won three of the events led by senior Dylan Vogt.

Vogt, who earlier in the day signed a letter of intent to attend Ohio State University for track and field, won the discus with a throw of 163-9 and he won the shot put with a throw of 52-6½.

"I was kind of in a rut this week," Vogt said after the shot. "I actually had a couple of bad days throwing, but I felt I started to get back on track in the shot. I don't want to make excuses, but the wind obviously didn't help. It killed everyone (in the discus) as no one threw what they normally do."

Sophomore Tyler Wolfe won the pole vault clearing 14-0.

Ottoville's Travis Eickholt won the high jump clearing 6-4.

Leipsic won five events led by Marco Rocha and Derrick Schroeder. Rocha won both hurdle events capturing the 110 HH in 18.0 and the 300 hurdles in 42.80. Schroeder won the 1600 meter run in 4:47.8 and the 3200 meter run in 10:45.4 and was a member of the 3200 meter relay that won with a time of 8:51.10. Schroeder was joined by Nate Nuveman, Sonny Hernandez and Jacob Schroeder to win the 3200 Relay.

Continental won the 1600 meter relay in 3:37 with the team of Mike Recker, Brock Homier, and

Dylan Geckle and Damon Schmidt. The Pirates won by three seconds as they battled the wind and a heavy rain that greeted the final event of the night.

SUMMARY

PG 144, Leipsic 119, CG 110, Ottoville 74, Continental 52 and FJ 27.

SHOT PUT - Dylan Vogt (CG) 52'6½"

DISCUS - Dylan Vogt (CG) 163'9"

HIGH JUMP - Travis Eickholt (Ottoville) 6'4"

*NR LONG JUMP - Sam Spallinger (PG) 23'2"

POLE VAULT - Tyler Wolfe (CG) 14'0"

110 M. HIGH HURDLES - Marco Rocha (Leipsic) 18.0

300 M. INTERME HURDLES - Marco Rocha (Leip) 42.80

100 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 11.4

*NR 200 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 21.8

*NR 400 METER DASH - Sam Spallinger (PG) 49.7

800 METER RUN - Thomas Hochstettler (PG) 2:04.50

1600 METER RUN - Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 4:47.80

3200 METER RUN - Derrick Schroeder (Leipsic) 10:45.40

400 METER RELAY - Ross Hovest, Sam Tijerina, Austin Dailey and Isaac Honigford (PG) 46.6

800 METER RELAY - Isaac Honigford, Austin Dailey, Tom Hochstettler & Derek Morrison (PG) 1:35.3

1600 METER RELAY - Mike Recker, Brock Homier, Dylan Geckle & Damon Schmidt (Conti) 3:37.0.

3200 METER RELAY - Nate Nuveman, Sonny Hernandez, Jacob Schroeder & Derrick Schroeder (Leip) 8:51.1