

CG Sweeps PCL Varsity Track Championships

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Columbus Grove's track teams took different routes to Putnam County League titles Friday night. The Grove boys turned in a solid performance in winning 10 events on their way to repeating as league champions.

With 10 wins in the meet, the Grove boys defended their championship as they finished with 195 points. Ottoville was a distant second with 97 points, while Leipsic was third with 85 points and Pandora-Gilboa was fourth with 66.5 points. Continental was fifth with 65.5 points and Fort Jennings was sixth with 13 points.

Columbus Grove's boy's team got off to a good start by winning four of the five field events. The highlight of the field events was the pole vault as the Bulldog vaulters shared first place as Collin Grothaus and Tyler Wolfe both went 15'0" to share the title. The two attempted to break Heath Nickels PCL record, but were unable to clear that height. The 15'0" was a personal record for Grothaus, while Wolfe, the defending state champion in Division III, was seeing his first action of the spring.

In the long jump, Caleb Grothaus won with a jump of 21'1¾" and Jeff Birkemeier won the high jump, on the basis of fewer misses, clearing 6'0". The top three jumpers all cleared 6'0", but were unable to clear the next height. This moved the Bulldogs Dakota Vogt to third place. Vogt also won the discus with a throw of 153'9".

"We had quite a few really good efforts," said Grove Coach Chris Grothaus. "Collin and Tyler clearing 15'0" in the vault is really encouraging and Caleb also went over 21' in the long jump. Dakota set a personal best in the discus."

Ottoville's Greg Rue denied the Bulldogs a sweep of the field events as he won the shot put with a heave of 49'5". Trevor Schroeder finished third in the shot for Grove at 44'1".

On the track, Derek Rieman was a double winner for the Bulldogs in the hurdle events as he took the 110's in 15.3 and the 300's in the 41.1. Rieman also helped the Bulldogs to win the 400 relay taking first place in 45.8 with Wolfe, Caleb Grothaus and Collin Grothaus.

Jake Graham won the 3200 meter run in a record time of 9:51.7 and Colton Grothaus won the 1600 in 4:52.0.

The Bulldogs opened the running events winning the 3200 relay in 8:42.0 with Wade Heffner, Dane Stechschulte, Alex Shafer and Colton Grothaus.

"Jake's run in the 3200 was fun to watch," Grothaus said. "We scratched him in the relay and 1600 to go after the record. It did not surprise me. With his work ethic, I think there could be many records fall in his career. Derek Rieman really ran the hurdles well, especially the 300's".

"Our depth was the difference, but we will need to match that effort in the NWC Meet as there are some quality opponents that we are going up against. Our kids have a lot of potential and they can not get complacent right now."

Besides Rue's win in the shot, Ottoville also recorded a win in the 800 relay in 1:37.6 with Matt Burgei, D'Angelo Bevely, Austin Honigford and Lucas Maag.

Leipsic recorded three wins on the night as Jordan Chamberlin won the 100 (11.3), Derek Steffan the 400 (53.9) and Nate Nuveman the 800 (2:02.2.)

Continental won two events as Dalton Bradford won the 200 (23.6) and the 1600 relay in 3:38.5 with Zach Schwarzman, Clay Bracken, Dallas Geckle and Bradford.

SUMMARY

CG 195, Otto, 97, Leipsic 85, PG 66.5, Contin 65.5 and FJ 13

SHOT PUT – Greg Rue (Ottoville) 49'5"

DISCUS – Dakota Vogt (CG) 153'9"

HIGH JUMP – Jeff Birkemeier (CG) 6'0"

LONG JUMP – Caleb Grothaus (CG) 21'1¾"

POLE VAULT - Tyler Wolfe and Collin Grothaus (CG) 15'0"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Derek Rieman (CG) 15.3

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES – Derek Rieman (CG) 41.1

100 METER DASH – Jordan Chamberlin (Leipsic) 11.3

200 METER DASH – Dalton Bradford (Continental) 23.6

400 METER DASH – Derek Steffan (Leipsic) 53.9

800 METER RUN - Nate Nuveman (Leipsic) 2:02.2

1600 METER RUN – Colton Grothaus (CG) 4:52.0

3200 METER RUN – Jake Graham (CG) 9:51.7

400 METER RELAY – Tyler Wolfe, Caleb Grothaus, Collin Grothaus and Derek Rieman (CG) 45.8

800 METER RELAY – Matt Burgei, D'Angelo Bevely, Austin Honigford and Lucas Maag (Ottoville) 1:37.6

1600 METER RELAY – Zach Schwarzman, Clay Bracken, Dallas Geckle and Dalton Bradford (Continental) 3:38.5

3200 METER RELAY – Wade Heffner, Dane Stechschulte, Alex Shafer and Colton Grothaus (CG) 8:42.0