

# Team Effort Leads Bulldogs to PCL Track Title

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A total team effort carried the Columbus Grove boys to the championship at the Putnam County League track meet Monday evening at Ottoville's Bob Kaple Stadium.

From the field events to the track, the Bulldogs scored points in every event in repeating as league champions in 2017.

The Grove boys got off to a good start Monday by winning all five field events. The Bulldogs had six wins overall at the meet.

Seniors Rece Roney and Caiden Grothaus were double winners for the Bulldogs in the field events Monday. Roney won the discus with a throw of 153-4 and later won the shot put with a heave of 56-1¼ which was eight inches off the PCL record of Matt Knippen in 2004 at 56-9¼. This was the third straight year Roney has won both the shot put and discus championships at the PCL.

Grothaus won the pole vault clearing 13-6 and the long jump at 19-11. Ryan Tabler won the high jump as he cleared 6-0 and he was second in the pole vault at 13-0.

"We had a good start in the field events again," Grove boys coach Chris Grothaus said. "Give the kids credit; give my coaches credit in the field events. They had the kids ready to go. You get your 70-80 points in the field events that was big. We were confident coming out of that, the kids were relaxed and said let's perform on the track. I like the way my young kids have come around. They might not be in the paper for winning things, but our younger kids were excited and performed well. All my seniors did what they were supposed to do. They have never lost this thing and they were kind of on a mission to keep that going."

Grant Cassidy, Lachlan Clymer, Caleb Barrientes and Grayson Flores combined to win the 4x200 Relay in 1:36.88.

Brendan Siefker won three events for the Ottoville boys, which included one meet record. Siefker crushed the meet record in the 1600 meter run as he ran a time of 4:21.15 to break the previous record of Columbus Grove's Mondo Tijerina.

Breaking the 1600 record was a goal for Siefker this season as he thought he had broken the record last year with a 4:29 only to find out over the summer that he hadn't. He was able to get off to a good start in the race and although his pace was quicker than he wanted early in the race, he said he felt good and was able to continue that pace throughout the race in winning by a half lap over Kalida's Adam VonderEmbse.

"This was my goal coming in," Siefker said. "I wanted to run a sub 4:27 and lock it for sure. All week, I've been thinking about that record. I wanted to get that mile record because that is my favorite event. My goal was 4:25, 4:26 and I went 4:21 so I was really happy with that. I usually don't go out that fast, but with the bad weather Friday and my sister graduating Saturday, I wasn't able to practice and I went out a little too fast. I was excited and anxious for the race, but it worked out all right."

Siefker also won the 800-meter run in 2:03.37 and the 3200-meter run in 9:57.74. Eric VonSossan gave the Big Green a fourth win as he claimed the 110 high hurdles in 17.50.

Kalida had four wins in the meet led by sophomore Josh Verhoff as he won the 100 dash in 11.43 and the 200 dash in 23.46. Trevor Vorst, Austin Nartker, Carter Moore and Caleb Siebeneck won the 4x100 Relay in 46.09, while Nartker, Vorst, Keith Doepker and Siebeneck combined to win the 4x400 Relay in 3:41.02.

"Every time I get down in the blocks, I give a little prayer to God - we've got this. I just get ready and take a deep breath and wait for the gun," Verhoff said. "Over the summer our coach got us in the weight room a lot. Track is kind of hard and we run in the parking lot and Grove is nice enough to let us come over and use their track and that helps out as well."

Fort Jennings won the 4x800 Relay in 8:53.20 with the team of Ian Finn, Alex Wieging, Jeff Hoersten and Dylan Wiechart. Kyle Maag won the 400 dash in 51.22.

Pandora-Gilboa's Travis Maag won the 300 hurdles in 43.84.

## SUMMARY

CG 167, Kalida 109, PG 89, FJ 77, Ottoville 63, Leipsic 37 and Continental 28

SHOT PUT – Rece Roney (CG) 56'1¼"

DISCUS – Rece Roney (CG) 153'4"

HIGH JUMP – Ryan Tabler (CG) 6'0"

LONG JUMP – Caiden Grothaus (CG) 19'11"

POLE VAULT – Caiden Grothaus (CG) 13'6"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES – Eric VonSossan (Otto) 17.50

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES – Travis Maag (PG) 43.84

100 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 11.43

200 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 23.46

400 METER DASH – Kyle Maag (FJ) 51.22

800 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 2:03.37

\*NR 1600 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 4:21.15

3200 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 9:57.74

400 METER RELAY – Trevor Vorst, Austin Nartker,

Carter Moore and Caleb Siebeneck (K) 46:09

800 METER RELAY – Grant Cassidy, Lachlan Clymer,  
Caleb Barrientes and Grayson Flores (CG) 1:36.88

1600 METER RELAY – Austin Nartker, Trevor Vorst, Keith  
Doepker and Caleb Siebeneck (K) 3:41.02

3200 M. RELAY – Ian Finn, Alex Wieging, Jeff Hoersten and  
Dylan Wiechart (FJ) 8:53.20