

Nine Second Place Finishes Give Leipsic Girls Title in PCL

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Very few people ever remember who comes in second, but in track enough second place finishes can add up to some good things. The Leipsic Vikings girls' track team had nine second place finishes Saturday and combined that with two first place finishes for the Putnam County League track championships.

In winning the title the Vikings racked up 120 points while Miller City was second with 105 points and Continental was third with 94 points. Columbus Grove, the defending champion, had 78 points, while PG had 49 and Ottoville had 45.

This was a big win for the Leipsic girls, who hadn't won the PCL title since 1985. It also gives them some much needed momentum going into the Blanchard Valley Conference meet this Saturday.

"It was a big win for us," said Viking coach Brian Gerber. "The last time the girls won the title was in 1985, so they were hungry for another one and went out and got this one. I thought it would take about 125 points to win it, because Miller City with Amy Vennekotter, Amy Niese and Anita Lammers is very tough. It was a total team effort as every girl on the team placed in an event except two. I felt as the meet went on we got stronger as a team."

The distance and middle distance events have been a strong point for the Vikings all season. And Saturday was to be no different as the Vikings used a middle distance event to take the lead for good.

Until the running of the 800 meter dash, the Vikings were sitting in third place. When they got a one-three finish in that event it gave them the needed points to vault into the lead.

In the 800 meter the Vikings Karen Weis ran a new meet record time of 2:30.3, while Renee Kreinbrink took third place in 2:36.3 to give them the lead. "The 800 was big for us," said Gerber. "It gave us a lead we never lost."

The only other Leipsic win on the afternoon came in the 3200 meter relay as Weis, Jill Knepper, Renee Kreinbrink and Melissa Feldman cruised to a win in a record time of 10:30.7.

Feldman picked up two seconds for the Vikings as she was second in the 400 (1:02.9) and 3200 (13:56.8) and placed third in the 200 (28.9). As a team the Vikings added second place finishes in the 800 and 1600 meter dashes and got a second from Amy Haselman in the 1600 meter run.

Jodi David pulled a second in the discus (99'9") and Jenny Wyant in the high jump (4'8") while Haselman was third in the long jump (14'1¼").

Individually Miller City's Amy Vennekotter and Columbus Grove's Melissa Selhorst had great days in their events. For Vennekotter it was the topping to a fine Putnam County League track career.

Vennekotter won the long jump (15'6") for the fourth straight year outdistancing Darla Taylor of Ottoville who placed second at 14'4½". Vennekotter then won the 100 (13.10) proceeded to better her own record (1:01.2) set in 1985 in the 400 meter (1:00.1) and ran the anchor leg of the record setting 1600 meter relay team (4:20.9) which included Jenny Erford, Anita Lammers, Amy Niese and Vennekotter.

After the meet Vennekotter said she was pleased with her sprint times, but not happy with her long jump. "Last year I was pleased with my long jump and my running stunk, while this year my sprints were good and my long jump stunk," said the senior who is looking for a return effort to the state meet. Last year the long jump was the only event Vennekotter walked away a champion in.

Selhorst continued to dominate the high jump as she won with a jump of 5'2", but was second in the 100 (13.6) and she teamed up with Jenny Martz, Stephanie Sturgis and Cindy Smith to win the 400 meter relay (54.1).

Martz, Bonnie Callahan, Smith and Sturgis won the 800 meter for Columbus Grove in 1:57.7 and Martz won the 300 hurdles in 50.7.

Miller City's Amy Niese won the 200 in 27.4 and Ottoville's Carmen Miller won the 1600 in 5:51.8.

Continental picked up the remaining first place finishes as Shelly Etter won the shot put (32'11½"), Paula Mansfield the discus (105'3"), Tabby Slattman the 100 hurdles (17.2) and Mindy Cross the 3200 (13:51.4).

SUMMARY

Leipsic 120, Miller City 105, Continental 94, Columbus Grove 78.5, Pandora-Gilboa 49 and Ottoville 45.

SHOT PUT - Shelly Etter (Continental) 32'11½"

DISCUS - Paula Mansfield (Continental) 105'3"

HIGH JUMP - Melissa Selhorst (CG) 5'2"

LONG JUMP - Amy Vennekotter (MC) 15'6"

100 METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Tabby Slattman (Continental) 17.2

300 METER LOW HURDLES - Jenny Martz (CG) 50.7

100 METER DASH - Amy Vennekotter (MC) 13.1

*NR 200 METER DASH - Amy Niese (MC) 27.4

*NR 400 METER DASH - Amy Vennekotter (MC) 1:00.1

*NR 800 METER RUN - Karen Weis (Leipsic) 2:30.3

1600 METER RUN - Carmen Miller (Ottoville) 5:51.8

3200 METER RUN - Mindy Cross (Continental) 13:51.4

400 METER RELAY - Melissa Selhorst, Jenny Martz, Stephanie Sturgis and Cindy Smith (CG) 54.1

800 METER RELAY - Jenny Martz, Bonnie Callahan, Cindy Smith and Stephanie Sturgis (CG) 1:57.7

*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Jenny Erford, Anita Lammers, Amy Niese and Amy Vennekotter (MC) 4:20.9

*NR 3200 METER RELAY - Karen Weis, Jill Knepper, Renee Kreinbrink and Melissa Feldman (Leipsic) 10:30.7