

Balance Paces Bulldogs to PCL Win

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Ottoville had seven first place finishes at the Putnam County League meet, but overall they didn't have the depth to match a young Columbus Grove team.

The Bulldogs overall young talent helped them compile 129 points as they easily slipped past Continental with 96 points. Two-time defending champion Leipsic was third with 92; Ottoville had 71 points, while Pandora-Gilboa and Miller City had 59.

The top three teams split all but two of the 16 first places on the day as the Big Green had seven, Columbus Grove four and Continental three. Miller City and Pandora-Gilboa split the remaining first places.

While The Bulldogs may have not been grabbing the entire spotlight, it was their overall balance, according to Coach Emma Pleiman, which was the key. This balance helped them place in 15 of 16 events and have seven double placements.

"It was a total team effort," said Pleiman. "We have a nice balance for a team which is mostly freshmen and sophomores. I really didn't know how we would do, this was the first big meet we had all our kids together. The last two meets we have had kids missing for different reasons."

Grove had four first places as Missy Szekely defended her discus title with a throw of 110'10", just slipping by Continental's Paula Mansfield (110'2"). Freshman Amber Gertsen surprised the high jump field by pulling out a win clearing 4'9¼", despite having problems with a rain soaked surface and having two misses on two different early heights.

The other two wins came in the 800 relay (1:55.6) and 400 meter relay (54.6). Both squads consisted of Chris Schumacher, Gertsen, Carrie Hartman and Amy Schubert.

Ottoville sophomore Shelly Heitmeyer had a big day with four first places. Heitmeyer successfully defended her titles in the 100 (13.6), 200 (28.1), and 400 (1:03.0). Her final moment of glory came in the 1600 relay as she anchored the team of Krista Martz, Angie Becker and Melissa Schlagbaum to a time of 4:29.5 just slipping past the Grove anchor leg in the final 10 meters. Grove had a time of 4:29.7.

Before the 1600 relay Martz, a freshman, won the 800 with a time of 2:34.9, Valerie Devitt won the 1600 meter run with a time of 6:01.2, while Devitt, Melanie Miller, Schlagbaum and Martz won the 3200 relay with a time of 10:49.8. The other point was supplied by Miller in the 800 run.

Continental's Tabby Slattman was a double winner on the day as she won the 100 (17.2) and 300 (50.9) meter hurdles, while Robin Troyer was winning the shot with a toss of 35'4¼".

Pandora-Gilboa's Stacey Hermiller won the long jump with a jump of 14'6".

Miller City's Marcia Wenzlick won the 3200 meter run with a time of 13:27.5, which tied the meet record set by Leipsic's Angie Rayle in 1984.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 129, Continental 96, Leipsic 92, Ottoville 71, Pandora-Gilboa 59 and Miller City 59.

SHOT PUT - Robin Troyer (Continental) 35'4¼"

DISCUS - Missy Szekely (CG) 110'10"

HIGH JUMP - Amber Gertsen (CG) 4'9¼"

LONG JUMP - Stacey Hermiller (PG) 14'6"

100 METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Tabby Slattman (Continental) 17.2

300 M. LOW HURDLES - Tabby Slattman (Continental) 50.9

100 METER DASH - Shelly Heitmeyer (Ottoville) 13.6

200 METER DASH - Shelly Heitmeyer (Ottoville) 28.1

400 METER DASH - Shelly Heitmeyer (Ottoville) 1:03.0

800 METER RUN - Krista Martz (Ottoville) 2:34.9

1600 METER RUN - Valerie Devitt (Ottoville) 6:01.2

*TR 3200 METER RUN - Marcia Wenzlick (MC) 13:27.5

400 METER RELAY - Chris Schumacher, Amber Gertsen, Carrie Hartman and Amy Schubert (CG) 54.6

800 METER RELAY, Chris Schumacher, Amber Gertsen, Carrie Hartman and Amy Schubert (CG) 1:55.6

1600 METER RELAY - Shelly Heitmeyer, Krista Martz, Angie Becker & Melissa Schlagbaum, (Ott) 4:29.5

3200 METER RELAY - Valerie Devitt, Melanie Miller, Melissa Schlagbaum & Krista Martz (Ott) 10:49.8