

Depth Keys Columbus Grove to PCL Track Title

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Even after graduating several key performers last season the Columbus Grove girl's track team proved that they are still the team to beat in the Putnam County League. With the Bulldog girls having seen Kelley Irwin graduate, Columbus Grove still dominated the PCL track and field meet Friday night in Grove.

The Bulldog girls came close to doubling up on the Rocket girls by outscoring them 177 to 91. Miller City was third with 83 points; Continental had 81.5 points followed by Ottoville with 57.5 points and Leipsic did not score.

Depth played an important key in the Columbus Grove girls picking up their win as the Bulldogs won seven events Friday and had double placements in nine events.

"We have a lot more depth than what we are used to having," Grove Coach Emma Pleiman said. "We don't have to depend on that one athlete, like a Kelley Irwin, to score a lot of points. Still we are a young team as we have just one senior and five juniors on the team. The rest are freshmen and sophomores so this season has been a real surprise."

The Bulldogs started their day by winning two of the four field events and getting a double placement in three of the four.

Tara Ruen won the discus competition with a toss of 103'11½", which was followed by Aimee Renner's second place throw of 101'2". In the shot Ruen was second with a toss of 32'10" and Beth Verhoff was third at 32'1".

In the high jump the Bulldogs Arin Gertsen picked up a win clearing 4'10", while Kristi Halker was third at 4'6".

The Grove runners then took over as they won three of the four relays and took two of the distance events.

Augusta Halker, Brigit Roberts, Andrea Roeder and Stephanie Renner cruised to a win in the 3200 relay with a time of 11:12.3, while Arin Gertsen, Stephanie Palte, Jenni Langhals and Andrea Ruen won the 800 meter relay in a time of 1:57.1. In the 1600 relay Stephanie Palte, Stephanie Renner, Kristi Halker and Augusta Halker ran a 4:38.4 for first place.

In the 800 meter run the Bulldogs Stephanie Renner (2:45.2) and Amanda Roeder (2:48.1) went one-two, while Brigit Roberts (13:56.3) and Nikki Reed (13:59.3) went one-two in the 3200 meter run.

"The field event people did a really nice job," Pleiman said. "We had a good showing in the shot and then went one-two in the discus. We also did a good job in the high jump. Our runners also did a good job. We don't have one outstanding runner; we have runners that consistently give us a solid effort each time out."

While the Bulldogs racked up several wins, Pandora-Gilboa's Brook Miller and Miller City's April Wagner both turned in solid performances in their final PCL meet.

Wagner had a hand in three winning events as she won the 100 and 200 meter dashes, than helped the Wildcats to a win in the 400 meter relay.

Wagner won the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.8 and then won the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.8. In the 400 meter relay Wagner anchored the Wildcat team of Barb Wilhelm, Kristy McKibben and Jill Schumaker to a narrow win in 53.3, while Grove was second in 53.6.

Wagner also took second in the high jump clearing 4'6" to finish behind Gertsen.

Miller won both hurdle events Friday and took second place in the long jump competition. She won the 100 intermediate hurdles with a time of 15.9 and also won the 300 low hurdles with a time of 48.7. In the long jump Miller was second with a jump of 15'3¾".

Ottoville's Jaime Knippen won the long jump going 16'1¾" for the win. She also finished second in the 100 meter hurdles.

Continental recorded a pair of wins as Kellei Clementz won the shot put with a throw of 33'9" while the Pirates Shannon Harshman won the 1600 meter run with a time of 6:21.4

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 177, Pandora-Gilboa 91, Miller City 83, Continental 81.5, Ottoville 57.5 and Leipsic 0.

SHOT PUT - Kellei Clementz (Continental) 33'9"

DISCUS - Tara Ruen (CG) 103'11½"

HIGH JUMP - Arin Gertsen (CG) 4'10"

LONG JUMP - Jamie Knippen (Ottoville) 16'1¾"

100 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Brook Miller (PG) 15.9

300 METER LOW HURDLES - Brook Miller (PG) 48.7

100 METER DASH - April Wagner (MC) 12.8

200 METER DASH - April Wagner (MC) 27.8

400 METER DASH - Kristy McKibben (MC) 1:06.7

800 METER RUN - Stephanie Renner (CG) 2:45.2

1600 METER RUN - Shannon Harshman (Continental) 6:21.4

3200 METER RUN - Brigit Roberts (CG) 13:56.3

400 METER RELAY - Barb Wilhelm, Kristy McKibben, Jill Schumaker and April Wagner (MC) 53.3

800 METER RELAY - Arin Gertsen, Stephanie Palte, Jenni Langhals and Andrea Ruen (CG) 1:57.1

1600 METER RELAY - Stephanie Palte, Stephanie Renner, Kristi Halker and Augusta Halker (CG) 4:38.4

3200 METER RELAY - Augusta Halker, Brigit Roberts, Andrea Roeder and Stephanie Renner (CG) 11:12.3