

Field Events Pace Bulldogs

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Columbus Grove's Brittany Begg nipped Ottoville's Chelsea Burgei at the line with the 1600 relay Friday night. That was supposed to be how close the race for the Putnam County League girl's championship figured to be. However, someone forgot to tell Columbus Grove it was supposed to be this close.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a big lead heading into the finals and never looked back in claiming another PCL title. Columbus Grove scored 180 points to claim the title, while Ottoville settled for the runner-up spot with 132 points. Fort Jennings finished third with 88 points, P-G was fourth with 72 points, Continental was fifth with 35 points and Leipsic had 10 points for sixth place.

"I expected Ottoville to be on our tails the whole way through," Grove coach Connie Arthur said. "They have some wonderful athletes. I gave the girls a challenge and they responded very well."

Despite Ottoville winning three of the five field events, the Bulldogs emerged from this stage of the event with a lead the Big Green couldn't overcome. Grove picked up 58 points in the field events placing one-two twice, while Ottoville had 48 points. After the Bulldogs won the 3200 relay and Ottoville placed fourth, the lead grew to 16 points.

"I didn't figure it would happen that early," Arthur said. "Our vaulters (pole) did exceptionally well, both of them having personal records. That was a big jolt in the arm. Our throwers also did a good job and Alli Raines gave us points in the long jump along with Abbie Stechschulte. The field events were a very big lift for us."

In the first girls PCL pole vault, the Bulldogs took the top two spots as Ashley Donaldson won having cleared 8'6" and Shelly Halker took second place at 8'0" after she and Ottoville's Brittany Klima both went out at that height. Halker got the position based on fewer misses at lower heights.

In the shot put, the Bulldogs went one-two as Bethany Fuerst won with a throw of 33'6" and Stephanie Butcher was second at 32'6". Fuerst also placed second in the discus with a throw of 96'7".

In the long jump, defending meet record holder Abbie Stechschulte was second at 15'2 1/4", while Alli Raines was third at 15' 1/2".

Ottoville's Chelsea Burgei won the long jump with a leap of 16'10 1/2" for the first of their three wins. Krystal Byrne won the discus with a toss of 102' and Brittany Klima won the high jump as she cleared 5'0".

On the track, the Bulldogs Lauren Slusser had a hand in four wins, while Brittany Begg helped win three events. Slusser started her meet by anchoring the 3200 meter relay team of Megan Schroeder, Katie Schroeder and Tricia May to a win in 9:52.5. Slusser anchored the 400 relay team of Begg, Stechschulte and Ali Hoffman to a win in 51.5.

Slusser also won the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:22.4 and she won the 800 run with a time of 2:24.4, while teammate Tricia May was second in 2:26.2. Slusser holds the county record in the 800 (2:19.22) and is the defending state champion in this event.

In the 1600 relay, Begg joined K. Schroeder, M. Schroeder and May to win with a time 4:11.9. Begg also ran with the 800 relay team of Stechschulte, K. Schroeder and Raines as they won with a time of 1:49.9. Begg also finished second in the 400 meter dash.

Ottoville also made their share of trips to the winners circle led by the sophomore Burgei. Besides winning the long jump, Burgei won the 100 intermediate hurdles with a time of 16.4 and as the defending record holder in the 300 hurdles won for a second straight year in 47.33. Ottoville's 1600 relay team finished second with a time of 4:12.0.

Brittany Klima won the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:01.4 giving her a pair of wins on the day.

Fort Jennings dominated the sprints, winning the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

Heather Kaverman won the 100 meter dash with a time of 13.3 while a teammate Diana Smith was second with an identical time of 13.3. In the 200 dash, the pair reversed the order as Smith won with a time of 27.2 and Kaverman was second with a time of 27.5.

The Musketeers also finished second in both the 800 (1:50.7) and 400 (53.0) relays.

P-G's Jessie Latham won the 3200 meter run with a time of 12:23.1. She also finished second to Slusser in the 1600 meter run.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 180, Ottoville 132, Fort Jennings 88, Pandora-Gilboa 72, Continental 35 and Leipsic 10.

SHOT PUT - Bethany Fuerst (CG) 33'6"

DISCUSS - Krystal Byrne (Ottoville) 102'0"

HIGH JUMP - Brittany Klima (Ottoville) 5'0"

LONG JUMP - Chelsea Burgei (Ottoville) 16'10 1/2"

*NR POLE VAULT - Ashley Donaldson (CG) 8'6"

100 METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Chelsea Burgei (Ottoville) 16.4

300 M. LOW HURDLES - Chelsea Burgei (Ottoville) 47.33

100 METER DASH - Heather Kaverman (FJ) 13.3

200 METER DASH - Diana Smith (FJ) 27.2

400 METER DASH - Brittany Klima (Ottoville) 1:01.4

800 METER RUN - Lauren Slusser (CG) 2:24.4

1600 METER RUN - Lauren Slusser (CG) 5:22.4

3200 METER RUN - Jessie Latham (PG) 12:23.1

*NR 400 METER RELAY - Lauren Slusser, Brittany Begg, Abbie Stechschulte and Ali Hoffman (CG) 51.5

800 METER RELAY - Brittany Begg, Abbie Stechschulte, Katie Schroeder and Alli Raines (CG) 1:49.9

1600 METER RELAY - Brittany Begg, Katie Schroeder, Megan Schroeder and Tricia May (CG) 4:11.9

3200 METER RELAY - Lauren Slusser, Megan Schroeder, Katie Schroeder and Tricia May (CG) 9:52.5