

Titan Girls Claim Division II State Title

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – June 12, 2002

Ottawa-Glanorf's girls track has collected a lot of hardware this season.

They have competed in nine major meets and brought home a first or second place trophy in all of them. The one trophy they will most admire from the season they collected Saturday evening at Welcome Stadium in Dayton.

Just after 7 p.m. Saturday, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner Dr. Debbie Moore handed the Titan girls the Division II State Championship Gold Trophy!

The Titans won the girls Division II meet as they scored 31.5 points. It was 1½ points more than runner-up Granville, who finished with 30 points. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy scored 29 points, Youngstown Liberty had 28 and St. Marys, the Titans Western Buckeye League foe, finished fifth with 26 points.

This was the first state championship for an O-G girls track team. The only other track championship for an O-G team was won by the boys in 1972.

Although the Titans entered the state meet on a roll, winning the state title was still an outside shot. It was something they didn't really discuss as they prepared for the championships, senior leader Jackie Inkrott said.

"We didn't say anything about state because we didn't want to be disappointed," Inkrott said. "The whole time we were thinking this was a possibility, but we just took it event by event."

"I don't really have any words for this. Going into the year, we didn't even think about a regional championship. We had won district the year before and felt we could do that again. At regionals, we had good times and good jumps and that championship was unbelievable. To win this by a point and a half was all in all a total team effort."

The Titans claimed the state title as they scored in all eight events entered at state. That was the main reason O-G found a centerpiece for their collection of hardware.

"Every meet this season, we brought home a trophy," an elated O-G coach Vicki Doty said. "We knew we had a good group coming in from last year. We didn't bring home as many first place trophies this year, though. We got on a roll at the league meet. We finished second in the WBL to Celina, who is always tough. Then we did extremely well at districts scoring 124 points and at regionals, we just wanted to advance as many girls as possible."

"We brought eight kids down here in eight events. To place first is a dream come true. It is something that is going to live in our minds the rest of our lives. Never in our wildest dreams did we think this was going to happen."

As the Titans were placing in every event entered, they were led by the senior Inkrott and sophomore Katrina Schumacker. Inkrott qualified to state in four events for the second straight year and scored in all four events this year. Schumacker was a three event qualifier and scored in all three. Both girls best finish at state was a runner-up showing.

Inkrott started the Titans run to the championship as she finished second in the 100 hurdles.

Inkrott had the third best time entering the 100 hurdle finals, but her competitive spirit pushed her to finish second with a time of 15.01. Kacie Vavrek of Bellaire won the event with a time of 14.72 as she had the quickest time coming in.

"Going in, I knew I was third, but was capable of achieving anything," Inkrott said. "I was so psyched before the 100. I said that I'll give it my all and whatever I get I knew it was going to be my best."

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Later in the meet, Inkrott teamed with Schumacker, Katie Kiene and Nicole Brickner to finish second in the 400 meter relay.

They crossed the line in a time of 49.73, .12 seconds behind winner Granville (49.61). Although Schumacker unsuccessfully tried to chase down Granville's Kim Horning, she held off Girad freshman Cachet Murray for second place.

"I wanted to get her (Horning) so bad," Schumacker said. "If I'd had another 25 yards, I might have. I caught her (Murray) out of the corner of my eye coming up. I didn't want another bronze medal (which goes to finishers in third through eight). I wanted a good color, silver."

Schumacker had picked up bronze medals after finishing fourth in the 100 dash and eighth in the 800 relay.

Schumacker finished fourth in the 100 dash with a time of 13.0. She then teamed with Kiene, Brickner and Shelly Bellman to finish eighth in the 800 relay with time of 1:46.50.

Inkrott completed her day by finishing seventh in the 300 hurdles with a time of 46.15. Then in the 1600 relay, the Titans finished eighth with a time of 4:04.1. This group included Sanders, Jodi Hermiller, Bellman and Inkrott.

The final points for the Titans came in the field events where Brickner pulled off a big jump in the long jump to finish sixth and Jenni Rosselit tied for fifth in the pole vault.

Brickner picked up vital points for the Titans as she definitely saved her best for last.

The sophomore was sitting in eighth place when she landed a jump that measured 17'3½". It was a measurement that even surprised Brickner.

"I turned around and didn't think it was that good," Brickner said of her final jump. "When they said the distance, I was amazed. That was my best jump ever. As a freshman, I never dreamed of being here at state. The last three weeks have been just great. I was a district runner-up and then a regional champion and now I'm sixth at the state meet. It was exciting. I hope I can get back here."

Rosselit, a junior, provided the last piece to the O-G puzzle as she finished tied for fifth in the pole vault. She cleared 9-6 which was a season best jump for her.

"I thought I did well," Rosselit said. "I'm just getting over the flu and to go 9'6" is just great. When the season started, I never expected to be here, but I hope I can get back here."

This was the first season a state champion has been crowned in the girls pole vault.

"On Monday, we came to practice and laid everything out as to where they stood," Doty said. "We had a couple of long shots, 800 relay and long jump, but they came through for us. Nikkie came through in the long jump with a school record."

"We set a couple of school records. Jackie Inkrott set a record in the 100 hurdles and the 400 relay team continues to amaze. This is just unbelievable. We knew what we had for points, then we just had to wait and see. The girls left everything on the track today."