

Bulldogs Balance Leads to PCL Track Title

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Not much changed as the Putnam County League track and field meet was held Friday night at Clymer Stadium in Columbus Grove. With perfect weather descending on the athletes only four meet records changed hands. Among the things that didn't was where the team championship trophies went.

On the girl's side, the Bulldogs finished with 194 points for first place, P-G was second with 98 points followed by Ft. Jennings in third with 69 points and Ottoville was fourth with 66 points. Continental was fifth with 65 points and Leipsic was sixth with 31 points.

The Bulldogs won just seven times making their depth and balance all that more important in winning the title.

"We have a lot of girls that can score for us," Grove coach Tim Staley said. "There are a lot of good female athletes in the county and while our girls may not win a lot they work hard to place. We saw times, distances and jumps all improve tonight and that's important as we start to peak for the end of the season."

The Lady Bulldogs also got off to a good start in the field events with three wins. Jenna Oard won the pole vault as she cleared 11'0" and Kelsey King won the high jump as she cleared 5'3" to edge past teammate Cara Maag at 5'2". Aubrie Stechschulte won the long jump with an effort of 15'2½".

While the Bulldogs won three of the field events, they had double placements in four of the events giving them a good start heading to the track.

On the track, Oard picked up a win in the 100 hurdles winning with a time of 16.9.

Kayla King won the 400 in a time of 1:03.6 and Kristin Barkimer repeated in the 3200 meter run winning with a time of 13:11.6. The Bulldogs 400 relay team of Allison Raines, May, Stechschulte and Amanda Schroeder won with a time of 51.80.

"The girls performed really well," Staley added. "We got a good start in the field events and then had some good performances on the track. We may not win a lot of events, but it's the second and third places and the double placements that add up."

While the Bulldogs were winning seven events as a team, the Rockets' Jessica Latham had a hand in four wins for P-G. Latham won the 1600 and 800 meter runs and had a hand in winning the 3200 and 1600 meter runs. "When I come in I don't expect anything because anything can happen," Latham said. "I just go out and see what happens."

Latham repeated in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:30.6 and won the 800 run in a time of 2:26.6. She then teamed with Rebekah Amstutz, Nicky Hovest and Sarah Amstutz to win the 3200 relay in 10:14.5. In the 1600 relay, Sarah Amstutz, Rebekah Amstutz, Johnna Freeze and Latham won with a time of 4:13.40 as Latham overcame the Bulldogs Amanda Schroeder on the final lap.

"We all get up for the 1600 relay," Latham said. "It's one of my favorite races so it's easy to get pumped up for. It's a fun race and we enjoy it."

Ottoville's Stacey Wannemacher and Ft. Jennings' Traci Hammond both set records in the girls meet. Wannemacher broke her own record in the shot put with a throw of 43'0". The junior came into the event holding the record with a throw of 39'1" last year.

This was not true. The PCL shot put record was set by Carol Lammers of Miller City in 1977 when she threw the shot 40'10½". Her record was mistakenly overlooked for nearly thirty years.

While Wannemacher holds the record in the discus, she was unable to better it as her top throw was 134'3 ½".

Hammonds' record came in the 200 dash preliminaries as she ran a 26.80 to break Brittany Klima's 2003 record of 26.9. In the finals Hammond's won, but was a touch slower crossing the line in a time of 27.10.

Hammond's also won the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.9 and joined Brooke Norbeck, Christina Metzger and Eric Metzger to win the 800 relay in a time of 1:50.80. Brooke Norbeck won the 300 hurdles with a time 49.20.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 194, Pandora-Gilboa 98, Fort Jennings 69, Ottoville 66, Continental 65 and Leipsic 31.

*NR SHOT PUT - Stacey Wannemacher (Ottoville) 43'0"

DISCUS - Stacey Wannemacher (Ottoville) 134'3½"

HIGH JUMP - Kelsey King (CG) 5'3"

LONG JUMP - Aubrie Stechschulte (CG) 15'2½"

POLE VAULT - Jenna Oard (CG) 11'0"

100 M. INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Jenna Oard (CG) 16.9

300 METER LOW HURDLES - Brooke Norbeck (FJ) 49.20

100 METER DASH - Traci Hammond (FJ) 12.9

*NR 200 METER DASH - Traci Hammond (FJ) 26.80

400 METER DASH - Kayla King (CG) 1:03.6

800 METER RUN - Jessica Latham (PG) 2:26.6

1600 METER RUN - Jessica Latham (PG) 5:30.6

3200 METER RUN - Kristin Barkimer (CG) 13:11.6

400 METER RELAY - Alli Raines, Cara Maag, Aubrie Stechschulte and Amanda Schroeder (CG) 51.80

800 METER RELAY - Traci Hammond, Brooke Norbeck, Christina Metzger and Erica Metzger (FJ) 1:50.80

1600 METER RELAY - Jessica Latham, Sarah Amstutz, Rebekah Amstutz and Johnna Freeze (PG) 4:13.40

3200 METER RELAY - Jessica Latham, Rebekah Amstutz, Nicky Hovest and Sarah Amstutz (PG) 10:14.5.