

Depth Carries Lady Bulldogs to First State Championship

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – June 10, 2026

COLUMBUS – Columbus Grove's girls track and field team used its depth all season to win nearly all of the meets they competed in.

With this being the first season for five divisions in Ohio High School track and field, the Lady Bulldogs became a piece of history Friday evening.

Columbus Grove outdueled state power Minster over the course of two days last Thursday and Friday to win the first ever Division V state championship in girls track and field. The Lady Bulldogs finished with 59 points as Minster was second with 44.5 points. Kalida's girls team finished with 14 points in the tournament.

The state championship is the first for the Columbus Grove girls after securing a top five finish last season.

The Lady Bulldogs had a solid Friday on the track as they placed in five events, either first or second. They also had a runner-up finish in the field events at the two-day meet.

Columbus Grove finished the meet strong as Jade Roeder, Devanie Pingle, Liv Mayberry and Kendal Palte won the 4x400 relay in 3:55.56 as they edged Minster for the top spot by nearly four seconds (3:59.53).

The Lady Bulldogs and Wildcats had the top two times heading into the finals from the semi-finals on Thursday.

Columbus Grove placed well in both hurdle events Friday as Palte, a senior, won the 300 hurdles, running a 44.79. Junior Bree Closson gave Grove a double placement in the event running a 46.69. Palte had the second best time heading into the event after running a 45.40.

To start the meet Friday, Closson nabbed a third place finish in the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.16.

Columbus Grove placed in all four relay races as their 4x100 relay team of Bryn Halker, Palte, Allison Thompson and Roeder finished second in 49.60, while Roeder, Pingle, Mayberry and Palte were second in the 4x200 relay running a 1:43.05.

In both of these races, Oberlin defeated the Bulldogs for the top spot.

Thursday evening the Lady Bulldogs opened the state meet with a third place finish in the 4x800 relay as Mayberry, Pingle, Lillian Montgomery and Sarah Kamphaus combined to run a 9:36.87. Minster won the race in 9:13.93.

Mayberry finished seventh in the 800 meter run running a 2:17.18.

Senior Nicole Nesby finished a runner-up in the shot put Thursday with a top throw of 42'2¼". Meri Jackson, Fairfield, won the event with a top throw of 42'7¼".