

Discrepancies with Records in the PCL Track & Field Meet

Over the nearly 100 years of newspapers reporting on the Putnam County Track and Field Meet, the lack of continuity in sport's reporters, oversights, typing errors and simple mistakes have contributed to the discrepancies in the results of the various events.

The newspapers of Putnam County did not have a reporter specifically assigned to sports until the 1960's. Information that was forwarded to the papers was taken to be a fact. Sometimes a record was set and not recognized. If an event was recognized, it was rarely questioned.

Sometimes two different results would be given in the same article. If the mistake was not a record, it wasn't a problem. However, it did cause confusion when a PCL record was involved. As a result, one mistake led to another.

In the early years of the PCL Meet, a list of events and records would be reported. These lists were regarded as a "fact" and sometimes this was not true. As a result, one mistake led to another.

In addition to the problems mentioned above, sometimes a record's time was reported in hundredths and not tenths. All PCL records were supposed to be rounded up. For example, if a time was 25.22, the actual time should have been 25.3.

There were six records that illustrate this dilemma: (1) the girl's shot put (2) the boy's 120 yard/110 meter hurdles (3) the boy's long jump (4) boy's pole vault (5) boy's 100 yard dash (6) boy's 220 yard/200 meter dash

Girl's Shot Put and Carol Lammers

The first record throw of the shot put was in 1972 when Sue Ellerbrock of Ottawa-Glandorf had a throw of 31'1". Karen Ellerbrock of Ottawa-Glandorf upped this record to 34'3" in 1974.

In 1976, Karen Moser of Pandora-Gilboa was credited with setting a new record but no results were given. This statement contradicted the results that were given in the 1977 article.

In 1977, the Putnam County Sentinel stated that Carol Lammers of Miller City "bettered her own record with a toss of 40'10½". This would infer that she had also set the record in 1976. No results of her throw in 1976 could be found. Carol did win the state championship in 1976 and 1977. Regardless, the 40'10½" throw was the undisputed standard as of 1977.

In the early 1980's the shot's weight went from 8 pounds to 4 kilograms for the girls. This was a slight increase.

In 1981, Michelle Foltz of Columbus Grove threw the shot 32'2½" and this was reported to be the new record. Lammers's throw in 1977 and Jeanne Christman's throw of 33'4" was not recognized. From this point on Foltz's throw was the standard.

In 1985, Roxie Zimmerly of Pandora-Gilboa threw the shot 34'3½", in 1986 36'2" and in 1987 38'3". All of these were mistakenly recognized as the PCL record.

In 2003, Bethany Fuerst of Columbus Grove had a throw of 38'8¼" to better Zimmerly's throw. It was still being incorrectly recognized as the PCL record.

In 2004, Stacey Wannemacher of Ottoville bettered Fuerst's "record" with a throw of 39'1". It was getting closer and closer to Lammers's record, but still not there.

Finally in 2005, Stacey Wannemacher broke the PCL record with a monstrous throw of 43'0" in comparison to Lammers's 40'10" throw.

It is regrettable that Carol Lammers's record throw in 1977 was not recognized for over 30 years. Hopefully, this brief explanation of the results of the shot put in the girl's PCL Track and Field Meet will clear up the oversight.

Boy's 120 Yard/110 M. High Hurdles and Everett Seitz

In 1926 Everett Seitz of Ottawa ran the 120 yard high hurdles with a time of 14.6 seconds. The newspaper article stated that this was 2 1/5 seconds faster than the previous record of 16.8.

The event was not held from 1929-1939. In 1940, Charles Agner of Ottawa Public ran an 18.2 which was mistakenly recognized as the PCL record. This was the beginning of over eight decades of young men being credited with the PCL record since Seitz's run was "forgotten".

However, Seitz's time is nearly two seconds faster than any other times until the late 1960's and it is so out of proportion to the other times for this event that it is thought to be a mistake.

Only two boys have approached Seitz's incredulous time of 14.6. In 1970, Mike Nichols of Columbus Grove and in 1977 Mike Heitmeyer of Ottoville ran a 14.8.

Since Seitz's time cannot be disproved, he will be recognized as holding the PCL record along with Nichols and Heitmeyer even though the items are different.

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Boy's Long Jump and Larry Johnson

In 1923, Owen Lowe of Continental set the long jump record with a leap of 20'11½". However, a few years later, the newspapers incorrectly listed his leap at 21'11½" and stated that it happened in 1922. This "record" was incorrectly recognized for 87 years as one of the longest running records in the state of Ohio, 1922-2008.

In 1955 Leipsic's Larry Johnson had a jump of 21'4" that was never recognized as the PCL record due to the mistake. Johnson held the long jump record for 54 years, 1955-2008 and Lowe 32 years, 1923-1954.

In 2009, Sam Spallinger broke Johnson's record with a leap of 22'2" and then bettered it in 2010 with a jump of 23'2".

Pole Vault and Selwynn Judson

The PCL record for the pole vault was broken seven times from 1920-1928 with Selwynn Judson of Leipsic setting the standard at 10'3¾".

In 1949 Jerry Welty of Pandora pole vaulted 9'6" and this was mistakenly recognized as the PCL record. Over the next ten years, five different boy's vaults were recognized as new PCL records. However, none of these heights bettered Judson's 1928 record of 10'3¾".

In 1959 Barry Eversole of Columbus Grove had a vault of 10'7 ¾" for the new record. His vault was four inches better Judson's.

Thus, Selwynn Judson held the pole vault record for 31 years but it was overlooked except for the year he did it.

100 Yard Dash Jesse Lehman and Roger Diller

In 1921 Jesse Lehman of Pandora set the PCL record for the 100 yard dash with a time of 10.3 seconds. However, in 1924 his record time was incorrectly listed as 10.8 seconds. As a result, Dick Allen of Ottawa Public was thought to have broken the record in 1927 with a time of 10.4. The 10.4 time was also recorded in 1940 by Ken Basinger of Pandora, in 1959 by Bill Thomas of Columbus Grove and in 1962 by Bob Volkmer of Columbus Grove.

This mistaken record (10.4) and the real record (10.3) were broken when Roger Diller of Pandora ran a 10.2 second 100 yard dash in 1948.

To add even more confusion to this event, Gene Shawber of Leipsic ran a 10.3 in 1963 and was incorrectly declared the record holder in this event.

In 1966, Bill Croy of Ottawa-Glandorf ran a 10.2 to tie Diller's run. He was credited with setting the record, but Diller's record run was overlooked.

In 1970, John Diller of Pandora-Gilboa ran another 10.2, making it a three-way tie for the 100 yard dash.

In 1973, Phil Trask of Columbus Grove broke the record with time of 10.1. This event and record was retired in 1979.

Boy's 220 Yard/200 Meter Dash and Gene Shawber

In 1940, C. Pugh of Columbus Grove set the PCL record in the 220 yard dash with time of 23.3. However, it was not recognized in the newspaper's report

Over the next two years, two different runners were mistakenly credited with setting a new record. In 1947, Gene Buddelmeyer of Glandorf ran a 23.6; in 1948, Roger Diller of Pandora ran a 23.5

In 1955, Larry Johnson of Leipsic and Bill Begg of Columbus Grove broke the record with a time of 23.2. This was correctly recognized in the newspaper reports.

In 1963, Gene Shawber of Leipsic broke the record again with a 22.5.

In 2003, Trevor Miller of Columbus Grove ran a 22.8. This time was incorrectly recognized as the new PCL record. Previously, there were three better times. In 1964 and 1965, Dave Basinger of Pandora-Gilboa ran a 22.5 and a 22.6 respectively. In 1988, Nathan Sprunger of Pandora-Gilboa ran a 22.7. In addition to these times being overlooked, the real record holder, Gene Shawber of Leipsic, was overlooked.

In 2009, Sam Spallinger of Pandora-Gilboa bettered Shawber's record with a blistering 22.1. He then lowered it again in 2010 by running a 21.3, knocking off more than one second off of Shawber's 46 year record.