

Leipsic Boys Win First PCL Track Crown in 33 Years

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After 33 years of athletic competition in Putnam County League Track and Field meets, the Leipsic Viking thinclads finally went one better than runner up last Wednesday when they captured the 1975 crown with a total of 70.5 points.

The Vikings last county crown was in two consecutive years, 1941-42 and previous to that they had a four year victory streak from 1935-38.

This year as the Vikings claimed the coveted crown, they won over almost perennial champs Columbus Grove with 65 points, followed by Ottoville with 53, Pandora-Gilboa with 43 and Continental with 12.5 points.

Two new records were set in the boy's competition. Reese Snyder, the short 5'9" senior high jumper for Pandora-Gilboa, set the first record when he jumped 6'2½". That is 5½" better than his height and it broke the 1969 county meet record of 6'¾" set by Columbus Grove's Mike Nichols. The jump also broke his school record of 6'0" of last year.

Grove's Jeff Auchmuty broke his own 1974 record of 51'9¼" in the shot event when he hurled the weight 54'9". Auchmuty already has thrown the shot 55'11" in a previous meet this season. The three year letterman took third place in the state tourney last season and it looks like he may make for some tough competition in the same event again this year.

Leipsic, Columbus Grove and Pandora-Gilboa each won four events in the boys meet, but Leipsic edged out Grove for the crown this year with numerous fourth and fifth place scorers in several events. Grove took six second place slots compared to five for the Vikings, but the Bulldogs placed only six other times below second place while Leipsic capitalized on their crucial victory margin by earning points from fourteen placements below second place.

The Vikings won both the low and high hurdle events, took honors in the long jump and the 100 yard dash. Senior, letterman Tim Meyer, heralded in the long jump by going 17'11", won the low hurdles with a time of 22.1 seconds. Meyer also took second in the high hurdles, behind teammate Mark Hartman. Leipsic's other win was by sophomore Mark Reynolds in the 100 yard dash in 10.7, his second best time this season.

Runners up Columbus Grove had winners in the shot put with Auchmuty and Rick Maag in the discus, the best thrower in the county this year, having 140'8" Wednesday. They also won the half mile relay and the mile relay.

The most valuable athlete in this year's crown competition, according to Grove coach Tracy Brown, was Ottoville's Bob Klima. Klima, a three year letterman, won all three of the Big Green's first places. Klima was half a foot above Leipsic's Oscar Gerda in the pole vault. Klima cleared an even 12' and he went on to win both the 220 and 440 dashes with times of 24.0 and 54.2 respectively, edging out his Columbus Grove opponent by .1 of a second in both instances. Besides his three victories,

Klima also anchored the Ottoville mile relay in which they placed second.

Pandora-Gilboa's winners were in the high jump with Snyder's new record and in the three long distance events. Rocket senior Jim Kline won both the half mile and the mile run in respective times of 2:05.9 and 4:43.5.

P-G's Mark Blankemeier turned in the county's best time this year for the two mile run as he won it in 10:30.2, almost nine seconds ahead of Ottoville's Brent Devitt.

Host coach Tracy Brown of Columbus Grove said "It depends on who gets hurt in the events that they count on in a big meet like this one." Brown said P-G's wins by Kline in both the 220 and 440 dashes hurt his Bulldogs this year. He also said Leipsic wasn't counting on big points this year, as they have depth in most events, having placed in all of them in Wednesday's contest.

The Vikings took 23 places in the meet as compared to 16 for Grove, 15 each for Ottoville and P-G and only six for Continental.

Coach Brown commented that Leipsic has excellent hurdlers, long jumpers and runner for the relays. On the other hand, Brown said his Bulldogs just don't have the depth that they have had in previous years where they have won the crown 19 times in the past 28 seasons.

SUMMARY

Leipsic 75.5, Columbus Grove 65, Ottoville 53, Pandora-Gilboa 43 and Continental 12.5.

*NR SHOT PUT, Jeff Auchmuty, CG, 54'9".

DISCUS, Rick Maag, CG, 140'8".

*NR HIGH JUMP, Reese Snyder, P-G, 6'2½".

LONG JUMP, Tim Meyer, Leipsic, 17'11".

POLE VAULT, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 12'0".

120 YARD HIGH HURDLES, Mark Hartman, Leipsic, 15.8.

180 YARD LOW HURDLES, Tim Meyer, Leipsic, 22.1.

100 YARD DASH, Mark Reynolds, Leipsic, 10.7.

220 YARD DASH, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 24.0.

440 YARD DASH, Bob Klima, Ottoville, 54.2.

880 YARD RUN, Jim Kline, P-G, 2:05.9.

MILE RUN, Jim Kline, P-G, 4:43.5.

TWO MILE RUN, Mark Blankemeier, P-G, 10:30.2.

880 YARD RELAY, Don Risser, Eric Basinger, Mike Snoke and Jack Ruen, CG, 1:38.2.

MILE RELAY, Don Risser, Francis Fuerst, John Parsons and Mark Walls, CG, 3:42.0.