

Ottoville Boys Win First Track Title

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Only one record was broken in the boys' 1976 Putnam County League Track and Field Meet. The record by Ottoville was not in any of the 15 individual or team events, but the Big Green thinclads won their first ever PCL crown as they amassed 62 points to take the crown away from defending champion Leipsic.

The victory was a hurdle for head coach Bob Kaple who started the nucleus of a track team some 10 years ago at Ottoville. After working with a handful of eighth graders in that first year, and moving onto a freshman team in the next three years, coach Kaple had his first varsity squad of trackmen in 1971 when they took fourth place among the seven teams that season.

Over the next four years Ottoville placed fourth twice more, took second in 1973 and finished third in 1975.

This year as coach Kaple recruited the biggest turnout of thinclads in the school's history, with 27 athletes of which 18 are freshmen and sophomores; the championship became a reality.

Ottoville won only four events compared to two for runner up Leipsic, six for Columbus Grove and three for Continental, but the Big Green showed depth in every event but the 220 dash as they earned additional points with 13 places other than first and tied in still another.

Ottoville's 62 points is the most they have ever scored in the annual PCL meet. Leipsic was dethroned to second place with 56.5 points, while Columbus Grove, the perennial champion for decades, was a close third with 56. Pandora-Gilboa took fourth with 34 and Continental was fifth with 31 points.

Ottoville took all of their wins in the distances, with junior miler Brent Devitt taking the mile run in 4:44.8, better than 10 seconds ahead of teammate Nick Burgei in second. Devitt's time was his best this season.

Tim Maag, a junior, won the 880 with his season best of 2:09.7 and Devitt placed second with a season best 2:11.0.

Freshman distance runner, Dan Hermiller, turned in a 10:29.6 to win the two mile for Ottoville and the relay team of Nick Burgei, Tim Schlagbaum, Tim Maag and Mike Heitmeyer placed first in the mile relay with a time of 3:44.7. The bulk of Ottoville's points were with four second place finishes, five third places, one fourth and three times in fifth. Ottoville tied Leipsic for third in the high jump.

Leipsic won only the 100 dash and the pole vault, but the Vikings showed as much depth as Ottoville as they took as many places below first in the remainder of the events.

A Leipsic senior, Jerry Korte, won the 100 yard dash in 10.7 and teammate Roy Guevara vaulted 10'6" to win their other event.

Leipsic had four finishers in seconds, four in third, three in fourth and four in fifth while tying with Ottoville for third in the high jump.

Third place Columbus Grove won the most events as they controlled the field events, but they showed poorly in depth throughout the meet.

The Bulldogs had the only four time winner in Eric Basinger, a senior who ran the high hurdles in 16.3, low hurdles in 22.0, took the high jump in 5'9" and ran a leg on the winning 880 relay team which posted a 1:39.5.

Continental's Kevin Mansfield garnered three events to earn better than half of the Pirate scoring. Mansfield, a freshman, took the long jump with a distance of 19'½", clocked a winning time of 54.0 in the 440 and a 220 speed of 24.0 to win that event.

Columbus Grove's Dan Hoyt was a double event winner with a first place throw of 47'11" in the shot and a discus win at 139'11".

Pandora-Gilboa did not win an event, but had three finishers in second, two in third, five in fourth and six in fifth.

SUMMARY

Ottoville 62, Leipsic 56.5, Columbus Grove 56, Pandora-Gilboa 34 and Continental 31.

SHOT PUT, Dan Hoyt, CG, 47'11".

DISCUS, Dan Hoyt, CG, 139'11".

HIGH JUMP, Eric Basinger, CG, 5'9".

LONG JUMP, Kip Mansfield, Continental, 19'½".

POLE VAULT, Roy Guevara, Leipsic, 10'6".

120 YARD HIGH HURDLES, Eric Basinger, CG, 16.3.

180 YARD LOW HURDLES, Eric Basinger, CG, 22.0.

100 YARD DASH, Jerry Korte, Leipsic, 10.7 seconds.

220 YARD DASH, Kip Mansfield, Continental, 24.0.

440 YARD DASH, Kip Mansfield, Continental, 54.0.

880 YARD RUN, Tim Maag, Ottoville, 2:09.7.

MILE RUN, Brent Devitt, Ottoville, 4:44.8.

TWO MILE RUN, Dan Hermiller, Ottoville, 10:29.6.

880 YARD RELAY, Eric Basinger, Mike Snoke, Carl Roebkel, Mark Kohls CG, 1:39.5.

MILE RELAY, Nick Burgei, Tim Schlagbaum, Tim Maag and Mike Heitmeyer, Ottoville, 3:44.7.