

Last Event Decides PCL Boys Meet

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What had been predicted as a scramble for second turned out to be a mad race for first in the Putnam County League track meet Friday as favored Ottoville withstood upset efforts by host Columbus Grove and Continental to win their fifth straight PCL crown with 62 points, just one point ahead of the Bulldogs and Pirates.

The Big Green held on to take the boys meet despite taking fewer first places than Grove or Continental. The Bulldogs posted six firsts, Conti five and Ottoville four. The depth factor, which would be Ottoville's edge going into the annual league meet stood out as decisive for the Big Green. However, it was not until the mile relay, the meet's final event, that the winner was decided. Grove took the event but Ottoville finished third for enough points to keep their longstanding hold on the PCL crown

"Going into the final even I knew we had a chance to win," commented Continental's Bob Baxter. "We ran our best time of the year but it was only good for fourth place. I cannot be disappointed though. No one, not even I, expected to take it into the last event."

A few surprises helped turn the meet into a goose pimply finish, most notably the field events. Three time league pole vault champ, Jim Klima was still nursing a season long injury leaving the event up for grabs. PG's Bill Etter and Conti's Dave Grant could not take advantage of the situation, however, and Klima's teammate, Greg Hermiller leaped and stretched 11'6" to record an Ottoville first.

Pirate Dan Troyer out jumped pre meet favorite Dave Mangas of Leipsic in the high jump as each athlete leaped 5'11" but the taller Troyer accomplished the feat on an earlier attempt. Continental also drew some stares in the discus as two Pirates finished second and fourth for more unexpected points. Grove's Mike Heffner took the discus releasing the saucer 136'4" for one of the Bulldogs' six firsts.

Rick Eickholt nailed down first for Ottoville in the long jump (18'10") and teammate Rick Horstman flew 17'2" for a fourth. The junior Eickholt also took the high hurdles in 16.4 while depth prevailed once more with Big Green teammate Tony Honigford's fourth (17.1).

Fred Koch notched the one and two miles runs, as expected with respective times of 4:50 and 10:35, while sprinter Scott Woodburn of Continental overcame a muscle pull to dash to victories in the 100 and 200 meter runs. The junior dart also captured the low hurdles (42.3).

Crossing the finish line in the 800 meters was expected for Pirate Jeff Pohlamus but not ahead of the pack as the surprising sophomore touched the tape at 2:09.3,

outlasting another sophomore, Kevin Swint of Ottoville. Klima garnered the 400 in 54 flat leaving the relays all to the Grove Bulldogs. Tracy Brown's thinclads easily outdistanced the competition in both the 400 and mile relays with times of 47.5 and 3:45.6.

Feeling a little dismayed yet happy with the league results was Brown. "At first I was disappointed we did not win, but the more I reflected on the whole meet, I was really happy that we did so well." The Bulldog coach went on to say, "In all the years of coaching here, this has to be the most thrilling PCL meet to take place. Continental had a great showing and Ottoville had great poise. They showed why they are the league champions."

Picked as league champs from the beginning, Ottoville's Bob Kaple needed to install an inspirational talk during the meet to get his team going. "We had a slow start in the field events and I pulled the boys over and told them that from that point on the meet was going to be even."

"Rick Horstman came through for us and Rick Eickholt gave us a big boost in the hurdles and long jump," stated the Big Green coach. "We knew the number of top finishers Columbus Grove, Continental and the rest would have. It was a real competitive meet."

SUMMARY

Ottoville 62, Columbus Grove 61, Continental 61, Pandora-Gilboa and Leipsic 18.

SHOT PUT - Ron Bryan (CG) 43'10"

DISCUS - Mike Heffner (CG) 136'4"

HIGH JUMP - Dan Troyer (Continental) 5'11"

LONG JUMP - Rick Eickholt (Ottoville) 18'10"

POLE VAULT - Greg Hermiller (Ottoville) 11'6"

110 M. HIGH HURDLES - Rick Eickholt (Ottoville) 16.4

*NR 300 M. L.HURDLES - Scott Woodburn (Cont) 42.3

*NR 100 METER DASH - Scott Woodburn (Cont) 11.8

200 METER DASH - Scott Woodburn (Continental) 24.9

400 METER DASH - Jim Klima (Ottoville) 54.0

800 METER RUN - Jeff Pohlamus (Continental) 2:09.3

MILE RUN - Fred Koch (CG) 4:50

TWO MILE RUN - Fred Koch (CG) 10:35

400 YARD RELAY - Jim Oglesbee, Ron Bryan, Mike

Heffner and Luke Stechschulte (CG) 47.5

MILE RELAY - Jim Oglesbee, Ron Bryan, Mike Heffner

and Luke Stechschulte (CG) 3:45.6