

Grove Wins Track Title

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The Columbus Grove boys track team and the Leipsic girls track team took different routes to winning Putnam County League track titles Saturday at Columbus Grove.

The Bulldog boys won eight events and placed in every event while amassing 140 points in defending their 1991 championship.

On the boys side Pandora-Gilboa was second, again, as they piled up 97 points. Continental was third with 58.5 points, Leipsic was fourth with 23.5 and Ottoville finished with 11.

“We’re really happy with the outcome,” CG boys Coach Tracy Brown said. “We don’t have a senior on the team so we didn’t know how we would do. The boys did alright today. We did a little better in some events that we expected. P-G also had some injuries so that may have made a difference.”

Matt Siefker helped pace the Bulldogs win by winning three events. The junior distance specialist won the 1600 meter run in 4:51.7, the 800 in 2:06.7 and the 3200 meter run in 10:27.7. “Matt didn’t have any outstanding times, but he ran well. He definitely was a key in the outcome.”

Although Siefker helped secure the Bulldogs win, it was the field events which got Columbus Grove started on its way to the title.

Of the five field events the Bulldogs won four and in four of them placed two people. In two events CG took the top two spots.

Alex Moser was a double winner in the field events for Grove winning the discus (134’6”) and shot (46’10½”).

Steve Longwell won the high jump (5’10”) and teammate Thad Pingle was second (18’2¾”) while B.J. Baxter won the pole vault (12’0”), followed by Mike Baxter at 11’6”.

The only field event not won by Grove was the long jump, as Pandora-Gilboa’s Jamie Burkholder took home the title with a leap of 18’3½”.

“They just had a big lead after the field events and we couldn’t catch-up,” P-G Coach Jim King said. “They placed one-two in two events and won two others. After that we had to play catch –up all day.”

The Rockets were forced to make some lineup changes as sophomore sprinter Cory Ricker’s injury prevented him

from helping the Rockets. They were also missing Matt Wood, who may have helped them in the field events.

“Having Cory may have made it a little closer,” King said. “We’ll have to settle for being the bridesmaids again.”

The Rockets bright spot on the day was senior sprinter Mike Kinsinger. Kinsinger won three individual events, plus ran the anchor leg of the winning 1600 meter relay team. Kinsinger won the 100 in 11.6, the 400 in 54.4, the 200 in 24.6 and anchored the 1600 relay in 3:44.7. Also on the 1600 relay team were Ryan Redd, Jason Hilty and Chris Niswander.

“Mike is just starting to come on strong,” King said. “He started to find himself at the Liberty-Benton relays where he won three events. Since then he has just been getting stronger.”

Columbus Grove also captured a first in the 3200 meter as the team of Haedon Meyer, Nathan Bonifas, Steve Longwell and Lee Brown won in a time of 8:57.2. P-G’s 400 meter relay team of Chris Niswander, Jason Hilty, Aaron Sommers and Phil Slygh won in 48.2, while Ryan Redd won the 300 intermediate hurdles in 44.3.

The day’s other first place went to Frank Lopez of Leipsic in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 17.1.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 140, Pandora-Gilboa 97, Continental 58.5, Leipsic 23.5 and Ottoville 11.

SHOT PUT - Alex Moser (CG) 46’10½”

DISCUS - Alex Moser (CG) 134’6”

HIGH JUMP - Steve Longwell (CG) 5’10”

LONG JUMP - Jamie Burkholder (PG) 18’3½”

POLE VAULT - Brian Baxter (CG) 12’0”

110 M. HIGH HURDLES - Frank Lopez (Leipsic) 17.1

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Ryan Redd (PG) 44.3

100 METER DASH - Mike Kinsinger (PG) 11.6

200 METER RUN - Mike Kinsinger (PG) 24.6

400 METER RUN - Mike Kinsinger (PG) 54.4

800 METER RUN - Matt Siefker (CG) 2:06.7

1600 METER RUN - Matt Siefker (CG) 4:51.7

3200 METER RUN - Matt Siefker (CG) 10:27.7

400 METER RELAY - Chris Niswander, Jason Hilty,
Aaron Sommers and Phil Slygh (PG) 50.2

1600 METER RELAY - Ryan Redd, Jason Hilty, Chris
Niswander and Mike Kinsinger (PG) 3:44.7

3200 METER RELAY - Haedon Meyer, Nathan Bonifas,
Steve Longwell and Lee Brown (CG) 8:57.2