

Bulldog Boys Claim PCL Track Title

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Columbus Grove showed their balance Friday evening in winning the Putnam County League track and field meet. The Grove boys showed their balance as they scored in every event, placing two athletes in many events, as they ran away and hid from the field with 158 points.

Pandora-Gilboa scored in every event, but one, as they finished second with 97 points. Continental was third with 47 points followed by Ottoville with 25 points and Leipsic finished with just five points.

Once again for the Grove boys it was their field events that set them on their way. The Bulldogs won all five fields events as well as placing two athletes in each event.

For the second straight year Alex Moser won the shot put and discuss. Moser won the shot with a heave of 53'10" after winning the discuss with a toss of 150'8". Teammate Chad Birnesser was third in the shot with a throw of 48'10", while sophomore Ben Maag finished second in the discuss to Moser for the second straight year with a throw of 139'10".

Senior Thad Pingle won the high jump and long jump for the Bulldogs. Pingle won the high jump edging out teammate Aaron Miller on the basis of fewer misses as both cleared 6'2", but failed to clear the next height. Pingle had already won the long jump going 19'7½" to edge out Continental's Andrew Dirr, who jumped 19'4". The Bulldogs Adam Walls was fourth in the long jump as he went 17'7½".

In the pole vault Brian Baxter cleared 13'0" for the win, while teammate Jeff Smith took fourth clearing 9'0". Baxter also won the 110 meter high hurdles with a time of 16.1 and finished second in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 45.0.

Sophomore distance runner Luke Siefker won three events as he captured the 1600, 3200 and 800 meter runs. Siefker won the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:51.0, then followed that with a win in the 800 (2:12.3). In the 3200 meter run Siefker won with a time of 10:40.5.

The Bulldogs 3200 meter relay team of Nate Bonifas, Mark Woten, Joe Lackey and Nate Irwin won the 3200 meter relay with a time of 8:53.7. Woten also was third in the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:58.9, Bonifas was second in the 400 with a time 56.2 and Lackey was second in the 800 with a time of 2:13.2. In the 3200 meter run Ken Basinger was second with a time of 10:53.1.

While the Bulldogs picked up several wins, the Rockets collected the remaining first place medals. Rocket's senior Cory Ricker made his last PCL meet a memorable one as he won three individual events and ran the anchor leg of a winning relay team.

Ricker started his day by winning the 100 meter dash in a time of 11.5. He then followed that with wins in the 400 (55.1) and 200 (23.9). His final win in the PCL came in the 1600 relay as he anchored the team of Jesse Miller, Nathan Eubanks and Jason Hilty to a win in 3:42.5, just about two full seconds ahead of Columbus Grove.

Last year Ricker won the 100, 200 and ran on the winning 400 and 1600 meter relay teams.

Hilty gave the Rockets a very exciting win in the 400 meter relay as he anchored the team of Matt Hartzler, Steve Ferguson and Tim Suter to a win in 48.0. P-G's time just edged out the Bulldogs for the win as Grove was second in 48.1.

Hilty also won the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 43.4 just three-tenths of a second off his record setting time of 1993.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 158, Pandora-Gilboa 97, Continental 47, Ottoville 25 and Leipsic 5.

SHOT PUT - Alex Moser (CG) 53'10"
DISCUS - Alex Moser (CG) 150'8"
HIGH JUMP - Thad Pingle (CG) 6'2"
LONG JUMP - Thad Pingle (CG) 19'7½"
POLE VAULT - Brian Baxter (CG) 13'0"
110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Brian Baxter (CG) 16.1
300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Jason Hilty (PG) 43.4
100 METER DASH - Cory Ricker (PG) 11.5
200 METER DASH - Cory Ricker (PG) 23.9
400 METER DASH - Cory Ricker (PG) 55.1
800 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 2:12.3
1600 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 4:51.0
3200 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 10:40.5
400 METER RELAY - Jason Hilty, Matt Hartzler, Steve Ferguson and Tim Suter (PG) 48.0
1600 METER RELAY - Cory Ricker, Jesse Miller, Nathan Eubanks and Jason Hilty (PG) 3:42.5
3200 METER RELAY - Nate Bonifas, Joe Lackey, Nate Irwin and Mark Woten (CG) 8:53.7