

Depth Keys Columbus Grove to PCL Track Title

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 10, 1995

Even after graduating several key performers last season the Columbus Grove boy's track team proved that they are still the team to beat in the Putnam County League.

With the Bulldog boys having graduated some top flight people in the field events, Columbus Grove still dominated the PCL track and field meet Friday night in Grove.

The Bulldog boys nearly outscored their closest competitor Friday night by 100 points as Grove won their fifth straight title with 168 points, while runner-up Pandora-Gilboa had 69 points. Continental was third with 50 points, while Ottoville had 30 and Leipsic finished with six points.

For the Grove boys they built up such a huge lead after the field events that they were never threatened. The Bulldogs scored 58 points in the field events, winning four of the five events, compared to 21 points for second place Continental.

"I feel our overall depth was a big factor," said winning Coach Tracy Brown. "We graduated Alex Moser (who was second in the state in the shot and discus), but we have had some new kids come through for us. Ben Maag had a great day winning two events. He is just starting to come around in the shot, as he had his best throw of the season. Brian Baxter continues to do well in the pole vault and Aaron Miller did a great job in the long jump."

Maag started the Bulldogs on their way with a record setting win in the discus and then followed it up with a win in the shot put. Maag won the discus with a record setting throw of 162'5" and right behind him was teammate Aaron Brown with a throw of 129'3". Maag then had his best day in the shot put as he won with a distance of 46'8".

In the pole vault Brian Baxter continues his consistency as he won the event with a record setting jump of 13'7". That was the first of two records on the day for the senior.

In the long jump Aaron Miller just cleared Continental's Aaron Donaldson for the win. Miller's winning distance was 19'5½" while Donaldson was second with a leap of 19'4¾". The Pirates Eric Kosch also was over 19 feet as he was third at 19'2".

The only field event the Bulldogs didn't win was the high jump. In this event Ottoville's Gary Wenzlick picked up the win as he cleared 6'2" followed by Brent Baxter (6'0") and Miller (5'10") for the Bulldogs.

Not only were the field events beneficial to the Bulldogs big win, but depth also was a big key. Columbus Grove won 10 events Friday and had double placements in 111 events. Three of the 10 wins came in the relay events.

Brian Baxter played a key role in the Bulldogs track success as he won both hurdle events and helped the 1600 meter relay team to a championship clinching victory. B.J. Baxter won the 110 high hurdles with a time of 15.1 and then won the 300 intermediate hurdles with a record setting time of 42.1. In both

events cousin Mike Baxter took second and also was second to B. J. in the pole vault.

In the 1600 relay Brian teamed with brother Brent Baxter, Chris Howard and Nate Bonifas to win the event with a time of 3:52.4. "Brian has been running real well this season," Brown said. "He didn't run last season due to knee surgery, but he has come back real strong. I feel that both he and Mike still have some better times ahead of them."

Luke Siefker picked up a pair of wins Friday as he won the 1600 meter run in 4:44.6, and then won the 800 meter run with a time of 2:10.8. In the 3200 meter run the Bulldogs Jim Woten picked up the win with a time of 10:58.4.

In the 3200 relay the Bulldogs team of Steve McCrate, Greg Kamphaus, Nate Irwin and Nate Bonifas picked up a win in 9:08.3.

In the 400 relay the Grove team of Adam Walls, Howard, Mitch Giesige and Eric Siefker posted a victory with a time of 47.1

"Our depth was the big key," Brown said. "This team has real good balance and that allowed us to switch around our lineup today to get more people involved. Some teams have one or two good athletes that carry them. This team has several athletes that can pick up points in just about any event. I feel we have been successful because our junior high program feeds in a lot of good kids and that's because our junior high coach (Howard Foltz) does a real good job in getting them ready."

Pandora-Gilboa's Jesse Miller won three track events as he won the 100, 200 and 400 meter events. In the 100 meter dash Miller won with a time of 11.5, then won the 200 with a time of 24.2. In between Miller won the 400 meter dash with a time of 54.8.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 168, Pandora-Gilboa 69, Continental 50, Ottoville 30 and Leipsic 6.

SHOT PUT - Ben Maag (CG) 46'8"

*NR DISCUS - Ben Maag (CG) 162'5"

HIGH JUMP - Gary Wenzlick (Ottoville) 6'2"

LONG JUMP - Aaron Miller (CG) 19'5½"

*NR POLE VAULT - Brian Baxter (CG) 13'7"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Brian Baxter (CG) 15.1

*NR 300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Brian Baxter (CG) 42.1

100 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 11.5

200 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 24.2

400 METER DASH - Jesse Miller (PG) 54.8

800 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 2:10.8

1600 METER RUN - Luke Siefker (CG) 4:44.6

3200 METER RUN - Jim Woten (CG) 10:58.4

400 METER RELAY - Adam Walls, Chris Howard, Mitch Giesige and Eric Siefker (CG) 47.1

1600 METER RELAY - Brent Baxter, Chris Howard, Brian Baxter and Nate Bonifas (CG) 3:52.4

3200 METER RELAY - Steve McCrate, Greg Kamphaus, Nate Irwin and Nate Bonifas (CG) 9:08.3