

# Columbus Grove Wins PCL Track Title

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Columbus Grove boys and Ottoville girls basically used the same formula in winning Putnam County League track and field championships.

Both teams scored well in the field events, then carried it over onto the track to win their respective titles at Ottoville's Bob Kaple Athletic Complex.

Columbus Grove returned to the top of the PCL standings by scoring 193 points Friday night to outdistance second place Leipsic with 124 points. Ottoville finished third with 72 points, Pandora-Gilboa fourth with 58 points, Continental fifth with 51 points and Fort Jennings was sixth with 25 points.

The Bulldogs won two field events and had double placements in all five events that helped them get a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"We were a little bit beat up not having Colby (Meuleman) and Jake Graham with a foot injury, but we talked all week about depth and how we needed to score two in every event," Columbus Grove coach Chris Grothaus said. "Obviously field events dictate everything. You feel confident but if you foul three times in an event or miss a height in the pole vault or high jump, things can go array. We doubled up in all the field events and that got us off to a good start. That helped the kids relax when they went to the track."

Columbus Grove went one-two in the pole vault and discus to jump start their night. Tyler Wolfe won the pole vault as he cleared 14-6 and Collin Grothaus was second having cleared 12-6. In the discus, Parker Schroeder battled the wind and rain to win with a toss of 149-7 while Josh Utrup was second with a throw of 142-11. In the shot put Schroeder was third with a throw of 48-10½ and Utrup was fourth with a toss of 47-11. Pandora-Gilboa's Tejay Boes won the shot with a heave of 52-9.

Caleb Grothaus was second in the long jump at 19-1 as Continental's Dalton Bradford won with a leap of 19-1 ¾. Jeff Birkemeier was fifth at 17-4. In the high jump Luke Kohls was second having cleared 5-10 and Dakota Vogt was fifth clearing 5-6.

On the track, the Bulldogs won three more times as sophomore Derek Rieman won the 110 high hurdles in 16.0 and Collin Grothaus was second in 16.4. Junior Wade Heffner won the 400 in 53.2 and sophomore Alex Shafer won the 3200 in 10:35.5, while Graham overcame his foot injury to take second in 10:43.5.

Columbus Grove added five runner-up finishes on the track as Heffner was second in the 100 (11.6) and the 200 (23.9). Dane Stechschulte was second in the 800 (2:11.6), while the 400 relay team of Tyler Wolfe, Trent Kerns, Fischer and Heffner were second in 46.3. The Bulldogs 1600 relay team

of Fischer, Collin Grothaus, Stechschulte and Heffner were second in 3:48.0.

"We battled on the track," Grothaus said. "We have some young kids that ran well. Our sophomore hurdlers really came through for us. That was big for our program. I really like our sophomore class and juniors. Our sophomore class is a hard working group of kids that put in extra time. We have really been trying to work with hurdlers this year, we made it a focus as we had been down in that after Heath (Nickles ) left. We realized in meets like this we were losing a lot of points. Hurdles, long jump were things we struggled in and we were trying to get some points. Our seniors did what we expect of them and our younger kids stepped up. When you get seconds with your depth that is big for us."

Fort Jennings and Ottoville's boys both picked up a pair of wins. Ryan Kraner won the 1600 in 4:49.3 for the Musketeers, while Travis Eickholt won the high jump as he cleared 6-4.

Leipsic won five events Friday night as Dylan Niese won the 100 (11.5), Marco Rocha won the 300 hurdles (42.4) and Nate Nuveman won the 800 (2:08.5). Derek Steffan, Nuveman, Jacob Schroeder and Roberto Balcarcel won the 1600 relay in 3:41.7. Nate Nuveman, Grahm Minjarez, Oscar Lopez-Gonzalez and Jacob Schroeder won the 3200 relay in 8:48.9.

Bradford, Dylan, Geckle, Jacob Fry and Brock Homier won the 800 relay (1:36.6) for the Pirates.

## SUMMARY

CG 193, Leipsic 124, Otto 72, PG 58, Continental 51 and FJ 25.

SHOT PUT - Tejay Boes (PG) 52'9"

DISCUS - Parker Schroeder (CG) 149'7"

HIGH JUMP - Travis Eickholt (Ottoville) 6'4"

LONG JUMP - Dalton Bradford (Continental) 19' 1¾"

POLE VAULT - Tyler Wolfe (CG) 14'6"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES - Derek Rieman (CG) 16.0

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES - Marco Rocha (Leipsic) 42.4

100 METER DASH - Dylan Niese (Leipsic) 11.5

200 METER DASH - Isaac Honigford (PG) 23.4

400 METER DASH - Wade Heffner (CG) 53.2

800 METER RUN - Nate Nuveman (Leipsic) 2:08.5

1600 METER RUN - Ryan Kraner (FJ) 4:39.3

3200 METER RUN - Alex Shafer (CG) 10:35.5

400 METER RELAY - Brad Doyle, Keaton Dailey, Isaac Honigford and Austin Dailey (PG) 45.6

800 METER RELAY - Dalton Bradford, Jacob Fry, Dylan Geckle & Brock Homier (Continental) 1:36.6

1600 METER RELAY - Derek Steffan, Nate Nuveman, Roberto Balcarcel and Jacob Schroeder (Leipsic) 3:41.7

3200 METER RELAY - Nate Nuveman, Grahm Minjarez, Oscar Lopez-and Jacob Schroeder (Leipsic) 8:48.9.