

# Columbus Grove Wins PCL Track and Field Title

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 9, 2018

It's hard for teams to overcome the depth that the Columbus Grove boy's track team has. At the Putnam County League Meet Friday evening, the Bulldogs used that depth to overcome the field and continue their stranglehold on the league meet. The Bulldogs were able to repeat by scoring 149.5 points to outdistance second place Kalida with 106 points.

Depth was the key for the Grove boys as they didn't record a win in the running events, although they placed in all but one of them to build on the points they racked in the field events. Columbus Grove finished as the runner-up in four of the running events Friday night.

Columbus Grove won four field events Friday, finished one-two in three of them and getting a runner-up finish in the one they didn't win.

Sophomore Evan Hopkins won in the pole vault (11-3) with freshman teammate Gabe Clement taking second (10-0). Cody Johnson won the shot put (45-2) and Hunter Roethlisberger was second (44-0), while Dylan Fruchey won the discus (134-2) and Ethen Halker was second (125-0). Freshman Zeke Halker won the long jump with a leap of 19-5½ and Dane Selby was second in the high jump clearing 6-0.

Columbus Grove boys Coach Chris Grothaus was not at the meet as he was attending his son's graduation from college.

Kalida's boys team had a solid meet in finishing second behind four event wins.

Josh Verhoff won three events as he claimed the 100 (11.1), 200 (23.47) and 400 (51.32) Meter Runs. In the 100 and 200, teammate Trevor Vorst finished second to Verhoff and Grant Laudick was second in the 400 for the Wildcats.

"Overall, the weather was nice, so it was great to run tonight," Verhoff said. "My buddy Grant (Laudick, 400), we were joking around to see who was going to run. We try to go back and forth but he kind of tripped up at the end. We kind of push each other. It's kind of fun to compete with him."

Chandler Hopkins, Vorst, Carter Moore and Laudick combined to win the 400 Relay in 46.37.

Ottoville's Brendan Siefker closed out his PCL career with four wins Friday just missing on breaking a pair of meet records by two seconds each.

Siefker won the 1600 Meter Run in 4:27.16, the 800 in 2:01.79 and the 3200 Meter Run in 9:41.9. In both the 800 and 3200 Meter Runs, Siefker was just two seconds off of setting a new meet record. Siefker started his evening by

teaming with Nolan German, Conner Wannemacher and Kyle Looser to win the 4x800 Relay in 8:41.30.

"Going into the meet, I didn't want to see the 3200 as my main goal as I had three events before that," Siefker said of going for the record. "I wanted to focus on each race at a time. Before the two-mile started, I was trying to get myself mentally prepared that maybe I had a chance at getting it. In my first mile I was on pace for it and that kind of worried me because I typically run the first mile a little faster. After that I was running on adrenaline and trying to get back on pace. I missed it by two seconds. I'm disappointed I didn't get it, but I was pleased with my time. It was the best I have run in two years. I was happy with the meet overall. Our 4x8 team improved so much today. I was in the 4:20's in the mile and the 800 was a nice race too."

Pandora-Gilboa won three events as Travis Maag won the 300 Hurdles in 44.05. Maag won the 300 Hurdles after the event was rerun at the end of the meet. In the first running of the event, a competitor knocked over a hurdle and into his lane causing him to fall and finish fourth. Teammate Samuel Burkholder finished second after the rerun.

Previously, Maag joined Jackson Ridge, Walker Macke and Riley Larcom to win the 800 Relay (1:35.2), while Maag, Macke, Larcom and Ridge combined to win the 1600 Relay (3:38.56).

Fort Jennings Ian Ricker won the 110 High Hurdles in 16.49. Continental's Eli Troyer won the high jump as he cleared 6-0.

## SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 149.5 (2) Kalida 106 (3) Pandora-Gilboa 94 (4) Ottoville 67 (5) Continental 39 (6) Ft. Jennings 36 and (7) Leipsic 32.5

SHOT PUT – Cody Johnson (CG) 45'2"

DISCUS – Dylan Fruchey (CG) 134'2"

HIGH JUMP – Eli Troyer (Continental) 6'0"

LONG JUMP – Zeke Halker (CG) 19'5 ½"

POLE VAULT – Evan Hopkins (CG) 11'3"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES – Ian Ricker (FJ) 16.49

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES – Travis Maag (PG) 44.05

100 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 11.10

200 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 23.47

400 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 51.32

800 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 2:01.79

1600 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 4:27.16

3200 METER RUN – Brendan Siefker (Otto) 9:41.90

4x100 METER RELAY – Chandler Hopkins, Trevor Vorst, Carter Moore and Grant Laudick (K) 46:37

4x200 METER RELAY – Travis Maag, Jackson Ridge, Walker Macke and Riley Larcom (PG) 1:35.20

4x400 METER RELAY – Travis Maag, Walker Macke, Riley Larcom and Jackson Ridge (PG) 3:38.56

4x800 METER RELAY – Nolan German, Conner Wannemacher, Kyle Looser and Brendan Siefker (Ottoville) 8:41.30