

Depth Leads Grove Boys to PCL Track Title Ten Years in a Row!

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 7, 2021

OTTOVILLE – Overall team depth played a vital role in the outcome of the Putnam County League Track and Field championships Friday evening.

Columbus Grove took advantage of deep rosters to win the championship at the Bob Kaple Track in Ottoville.

Jon Banal of Columbus Grove was named the Player of the Meet by accumulating 55 points. He placed 1st in the 110 hurdles, 300 hurdles and was a member of the 400 meter relay team.

The Bulldog boys not only won 12 events, but had several key double placements to run away from the field scoring 218 points to win their tenth straight PCL title. Ottoville finished second with 82 points and Kalida was third with 72 points. This was the 51st team title for the Bulldogs according to PCL records.

Columbus Grove's boys team won three field events which carried over to the track where they posted nine more wins.

“We knew our depth coming into this usually pays dividends for us,” Columbus Grove coach Chris Grothaus said. “The kids are focused on getting better. The kids could have come in knowing they are going to win the meet and go through the motions, but they didn't do that. They are competing.”

“Our field events, like previous years, gets us off to a good start. I think the difference this year is our depth. We have sprinter depth, a good 4x2 and 4x1 with four different guys in each race, so we are fresh. I feel like our guys haven't reached their peak yet. My seniors have led by example. We have a great group of upperclassmen and the younger kids are following.”

The Bulldogs won three field events as Gabe Clement won the pole vault clearing 13-0, Jacksen Schroeder won the long jump at 19-10 and Ethan Halker won the discus at 164-11.

On the track, the Bulldogs won all four relays as their 4x800 team of Caleb Stechschulte, Caleb Morman, Trent Koch and Carson Closson won the race in a meet record time of 8:16.50.

Josh Smith, Trenton Daniels, Mitchel Caudill and Jaden Daniels won the 4x200 relay in 1:36.09.

Jon Banal, Zeke Halker, Caudill and Clement won the 4x100 relay in 44.62.

The Bulldogs finished the meet winning the 4x400 relay with Landon Myers, Mitchel Caudill, Derek Birkemeier and Anden Blankemeyer turning in a 3:39.72.

Banal won both hurdle events for the Bulldogs taking the 110 highs in 15.46 and the 300 intermediates in 41.37. Carson Closson won the 1600-meter run in 4:38.65. Stechschulte the 800 in 2:08.43 and Luke Ellerbrock the 3200-meter run in 10:21.81.

Pandora-Gilboa's Gavin Biery was double winner taking the 100 dash (11.81) and the 200 dash (24.03).

Eric Wiegung won the 400 dash (53.90) for the Musketeers and Kyle Manns, Ottoville, won the high jump (6'0"). Isaac Gibbs won the shot put (49'10½") for Continental.

SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 218 (2) Ottoville 82 (3) Kalida 72 (4) Continental 63 (5) Pandora-Gilboa 62 (6) Leipsic 48.5 (7) Fort Jennings 27.5

SHOT PUT – Isaac Gibbs (Con) 49'10½"

DISCUS – Ethan Halker (CG) 164'11"

HIGH JUMP – Kyle Manns (O) 6'0"

LONG JUMP – Jacksen Schroeder (CG) 19'10"

POLE VAULT – Gabe Clement (CG) 13'0"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES – Jon Banal (CG) 15.46

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES – Jon Banal (CG) 41.37

100 METER DASH – Gavin Biery (PG) 11.81

200 METER DASH – Gavin Biery (PG) 24.03

400 METER DASH – Eric Wiegung (FJ) 53.90

800 METER RUN – Caleb Stechschulte (CG) 2:08.43

1600 METER RUN – Carson Closson (CG) 4:38.65

3200 METER RUN – Luke Ellerbrock (CG) 10:21.81

4x100 METER RELAY – Jon Banal, Zeke Halker, Jacksen

Schroeder and Gabe Clement (CG) 44:62.2

4x200 METER RELAY – Josh Smith, Trenton Daniels, Mitchel

Caudill and Jaden Daniels (CG) 1:36.09

4x400 METER RELAY – Landon Myers, Mitchel Caudill, Derek

Birkemeier and Anden Blankemeyer (CG) 3:39.72

4x800 METER RELAY – Caleb Stechschulte, Caleb Morman,

Trent Koch and Carson Closson (CG) 8:16.50