

# Grove Boys Win Another PCL Title

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OTTOVILLE – Columbus Grove's boys track and field coach Chris Grothaus did a little experimenting with his lineup Friday night.

His experiment was a success as his Bulldogs rolled to their 12<sup>th</sup> straight Putnam County League championship.

The Bulldogs turned in several impressive performances Friday night in scoring 169 points for the win. Leipsic finished second with 98 points and Kalida was third with 86.

"We experimented a little bit. We threw some young kids in there and I was impressed by the young kid's performances. A lot of those kids PR'ed." Grothaus said. "Tadd (Koch) threw close to 190 feet in the discuss again and Lawson (Maag) PR'ed in that event also. We put Luke (Ellerbrock) in the (3200) fresh in order to break the meet record. We didn't think he would get the school record, but he did."

"We had the opportunity to slide some new kids in there. We were hoping we had enough padding where we could do this and that propels our program down the road where the kids all of a sudden see that and think they are able to do it."

Columbus Grove athletes broke two meet records Friday with Tadd Koch in the discus and Luke Ellerbrock in the 3200-meter run.

Grothaus kept Ellerbrock out of his other events so he would be fresh for the 3200. Ellerbrock turned in an impressive performance running a 9:24.74 to break the meet record of 9:39.9 by Jake Graham in 2013. Ellerbrock's time also broke the Grove school record for the event by five seconds.

"When you are beating Jake Graham by five seconds, that's pretty impressive," Grothaus said. He has never run it fresh and I told him that he was going run it to see if it was possible to make the state meet and what he could do. The kid is a hard-nosed, tough kid for not much (body size) there."

For the second straight meet Koch had a record setting throw in the discus. Unlike at Liberty-Benton when he did it on his last throw, Koch broke the record on his first throw with a distance of 188-11. Koch's throw surpassed the record of Grove's Corey Meuleman in 2007.

"When I threw I thought it was going to be a good day, but it might just have been an adrenaline rush," Koch said. "After the first throw I didn't know if it would stand up. It's the first nice day we've had in a while and with (Seth) Apple and Lawson (Maag) you never know. I was hoping to throw farther later, but we'll still take it."

Apple finished second at 175-10 and Maag had a top throw of 174-10.

Columbus Grove won three field events as Antonio Gray won the high jump clearing 6-0 and A. J. Schafer won the shot put with a throw of 55-6½.

On the track, the Bulldogs won the 4x800 relay in 8:37.45 with Trenton Barraza, Logan Mersman, Bryce Bonifas and Trent Koch and the 4x400 relay won in 3:35.74 with Barraza, Layton Blankemeyer, Zane Stechschulte and Anden Blankemeyer.

Evan Pitts took the 1600-meter run in 4:42.39 and Anden Blankemeyer won the 400 in 51.97.

Ottoville senior Kellen was a four-event winner in his final PCL meet winning both hurdle races taking 1110 high hurdles in 15.71 and the 300 intermediated hurdles in 40.0.

Schlagbaum joined Garrett Trentman, Alex Leis and Quinton Schnipke to win the 4x200 relay in 1:35.47 and later Michael Turnwald, Trentman and Leis to win the 4x100 relay in 45.25

Leipsic's Diego Baldazo won the 800-meter run in 2:06.04, while Hayden Hiegel won two events crossing the finish line first in the 100 dash in 11.03 and the 200 dash in 23.25.

Pandora-Gilboa's Andrew Suter won the pole vault clearing 13-9 and Ethan Luginbill won the long jump with a leap of 20-¾.

## SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 169 (2) Leipsic 98 (3) Kalida 86 (4) Ottoville 78 (5) Pandora-Gilboa 65 (6) Fort Jennings 20 (7) Continental 10

SHOT PUT – A. J. Schafer (CG) 55'6½"

\*NR DISCUS – Tadd Koch (CG) 188'11"

HIGH JUMP – Antonio Gray (CG) 6'0"

LONG JUMP – Ethan Luginbill (PG) 20'¾"

POLE VAULT – Andrew Suter (PG) 13'9"

110 METER HURDLES – Kellen Schlagbaum (O) 15.71

300 METER HURDLES – Kellen Schlagbaum (O) 40.00

100 METER DASH – Hayden Hiegel (L) 11.03

200 METER DASH – Hayden Hiegel (L) 23.25

400 METER DASH – Anden Blankemeyer (CG) 51.97

800 METER RUN – Diego Baldazo (L) 2:06.04

1600 METER RUN – Evan Pitts (CG) 4:42.39

\*NR 3200 METER RUN – Luke Ellerbrock (CG) 9:24.74

4x100 METER RELAY – Michael Turnwald, Garret Trentman, Alex Leis and Kellen Schlagbaum (O) 45.25

4x200 METER RELAY – Garrett Trentman, Alex Leis, Quinton Schnipke and Kellen Schlagbaum (O) 1:35.47

4x400 METER RELAY – Trenton Barraza, Layton Blankemeyer, Zane Stechschulte and Anden Blankemeyer (CG) 3:35.74

4x800 METER RELAY – Trenton Barraza, Logan Mersman, Bryce Bonifas and Trent Koch (CG) 8:37.45