

Columbus Grove Boys Repeat as PCL Track Champions

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 08, 2024

COLUMBUS GROVE – A good, overall team effort by the Columbus Grove boys track and field team Friday night led them to repeat as Putnam County League Champions.

Columbus Grove won its 13th straight PCL title finishing with 194.5 points as Ottoville was second with 92 points. Kalida finished third with 68 points.

The Columbus Grove boys team dominated the competition as they won 13 of the 17 events on their home track.

“It went well. The kids got better,” Columbus Grove coach Chris Grothaus said. “We are healthy, except for Zach Reynolds, and we would like to get him back. That was impressive, but we know we have to get a little better next week. I’m proud of the kids and the program is what it is because of coach Tracy Brown.”

Columbus Grove recognized coach Brown before the meet dedicating a plaque that will be hung in the stadium. Brown coach the Bulldog track and field program for 33 seasons before retiring.

The Bulldogs nearly won every race on the track as Luke Ellerbrock was a double individual winning the 1600 in 4:22.20 and then returned to win the 3200-meter run in 9:52.84.

Ellerbrock nearly passed on running the 3200 after winning a hard 1600-meter race in an attempt to break the Grove school record (4:21) in that event.

“The goal going in was to try to beat the 1600 record,” Ellerbrock said. “The weather was pretty solid, a little humid, but very limited wind and not super hot. I knew it was a good chance to get it and knew there wouldn’t be a lot of competition so I would have to go there and pace myself. I just missed it.”

Keagan Bame won the 100-dash in 11.49, Grant Eversole the 200-dash in 23.72, Trenton Baraza the 400 in 51.94 and Bryce Bonifas the 800 in 2:07.87.

Several of these runners, along with others, combined to win the 4x100 relay (44.56), the 4x200 relay (1:33.21), the 4x400 relay (3:33.83) and the 4x800 relay (8:37.60).

Jarrold Holland won the high jump for Grove clearing 6-0, while Eversole won the long jump at 19-4 and Kylan Mayes the shot put with a throw of 44-8.

Ottoville’s Garrett Trentman was a double winner for the Big Green winning the 110 hurdles in 15.11 before

returning to win the 300 hurdles in a meet record time of 39.47.

“It’s been a good night, good weather, good competition. It’s really good to be here.”

Teammate Colton Knippen won the discus with a throw of 143-2 for the Big Green.

Pandora-Gilboa’s Andrew Suter won the pole vault, clearing 14-0.

SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 194.5 (2) Ottoville 92.0 (3) Kalida 68.0 (4) Pandora-Gilboa 67.50 (5) Continental 60.0 (6) Leipsic 25 (7) Miller City 12.0 (8) Fort Jennings 7.

SHOT PUT – Kylan Mayes (CG) 44’8”

DISCUS – Colton Knippen (O) 143’2”

HIGH JUMP – Jarrod Holland (CG) 6’0”

LONG JUMP – Grant Eversole (CG) 19’4”

POLE VAULT – Andrew Suter (PG) 14’0”

110 METER HURDLES – Garret Trentman (O) 15.11

*NR 300 METER HURDLES – Garret Trentman (O) 39.47

100 METER DASH – Keagan Bame (CG) 11.49

200 METER DASH – Grant Eversole (CG) 23.72

400 METER DASH – Trenton Barraza (CG) 51.94

800 METER RUN – Bryce Bonifas (CG) 2:07.87

1600 METER RUN – Luke Ellerbrock (CG) 4:22.20

3200 METER RUN – Luke Ellerbrock (CG) 9:52.84

4x100 METER RELAY – Keagan Bame, Grant Eversole, Trenton, Barraza and Trenton Baxter (CG) 44.56

4x200 METER RELAY – Keagan Bame, Trenton Barraza, Layton Blankemeyer and Grant Eversole (CG) 1:33.21

4x400 METER RELAY – Logan Mershman, Zane Stechschulte, Layton Blankemeyer and Trenton Barraza (CG) 3:33.83

4x800 METER RELAY – Logan Mershman, Evan Pitts, Braylon Best and Bryce Bonifas (CG) 8:37.60