

Grove Girls Claim PCL Track Title

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In a record setting night at Columbus Grove, it was points behind the winners that made the difference for the Bulldog girls. The Bulldogs were able to lay claim to the Putnam County League championship Friday night doubling up in several events and just getting points any way they could. This strategy helped Grove dethrone the Rockets by a mere six points.

Columbus Grove won the league title Friday as they scored 147 points and P-G was second with 141 points. Fort Jennings finished third with 97 points, followed by Continental with 38 points, Ottoville was fifth with 30 points, Miller City had 26 points and Leipsic had 17 points for 7th place.

“It helps when we get a couple of people in each event. That helped us tonight,” Grove coach Connie Arthur said, “Every point was crucial and the girls knew that going in. This feels great. The girls have worked hard for this; it was a goal they set at the beginning of the season to win this meet. I’m glad to see it happen.”

Going in the Bulldogs knew they had to offset the Rockets dominance in the distance events with points in other events. Still it may have been Grove’s double placement in the 3200 meter run that secured their win.

While the Rockets’ Sarah Eubank was winning this event with a meet record time of 11:40.4, the Bulldogs were placing two runners. Grove’s Theresa Siefker ran to a third place finish and teammate Stephanie Koch placed fifth giving the Bulldogs eight points for the event. The points were big as P-G finished second in the final event, the 1600 relay and the Bulldogs finished third.

“That certainly helped,” Arthur said. “Going in the girls knew the positions they needed to hold. Actually Stephanie Koch did even better than we anticipated and that’s exactly what we like to see. That one point she picked up can make the difference.”

For the meet Columbus Grove won five events and had double placements in seven events. Abbie Stechschulte and Lauren Slusser were double winners for the Bulldogs Friday.

Stechschulte won the long jump as she went 16’5”, then won the 300 hurdles with a time of 47.7 for a new meet record. Stechschulte also placed second in the high jump and 100 dash.

Slusser won the 400 meter dash Friday with a time of 1:01 to set a new meet record and then won the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.1 for a new meet record. Slusser also was part of the 800 meter relay team that finished second and the 1600 meter relay team that finished third.

The final win for the Bulldogs came in the 100 hurdles as Aimee Gertsen won with a time of 16.3. Gertsen also finished third in the 100 meter dash.

“We knew we needed to do well in the sprints and hurdles,” Arthur concluded. “It helped that we have some real good hurdlers. Plus some of the field event people really stepped up their performances. P-G’s distance runners are just awesome and we had to offset those points. Our girls did what they needed. Plus our relay teams came through and that was big as Ft. Jennings is pretty awesome there.”

The Rockets were able to stay close as they won three of the distance races and had six wins overall and had six double placements in the meet.

Kinsey Miller was a part of three records setting performances Friday, two individual and one team. Miller won the 1600 meter run in a record time of 5:19.2 and then won the 800 meter run in a time of 2:25.3 for a new meet record. Miller also joined Jenny Lee, Sarah Eubank and Katie Diller to win the 3200 meter relay in a record time of 9:51.9.

Eubank also set a record Friday as she won the 3200 meter run in a time of 11:40.4. Eubank also finished second in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:38.1.

Kara Heitmeyer won the high jump Friday as she out dueled Abbie Stechschulte of Grove. Both jumpers cleared 5’4” but Heitmeyer won on the basis of fewer misses at lower heights.

In the discus the Rockets’ Stacy Smith won with a throw of 106’3 ½”.

Continental’s Cassandra Smith won the shot put with a throw of 33’11 ½”.

Fort Jennings Melissa Metzger was a busy person Friday night as she had a hand in four winning events, one dash three relays. Metzger started her winning night as she won the 100 meter dash with a time of 13.0.

Metzger then joined Natalie Stechschulte, Diana Smith and Heather Kaverman to win the 800 relay in a time of 1:47.6. This was just the first of three record setting relay performances by the Musketeers.

In the 400 relay the Musketeers Stechschulte, Smith, Kaverman and Melissa Metzger combined for a record time of 51.6. In the 1600 relay Smith, Kaverman, Jessica Metzger and Melissa Metzger won with a record time of 4:07.4.

The Bulldogs will have little time to celebrate their PCL championship as they prepare for the Northwest Conference meet Saturday at Spencerville. The Rockets and Vikings will also be busy this week as they prepare for the Blanchard Valley Conference meet at Findlay’s Donnell Stadium of Friday.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 147, Pandora-Gilboa 141, Fort Jennings 97, Continental 38, Ottoville 30, Miller City 26 and Leipsic 17.

SHOT PUT - Cassandra Smith (Continental) 33’11½”
DISCUS - Stacy Smith (PG) 106’3½”
HIGH JUMP - Kara Heitmeyer (PG) 5’4”
LONG JUMP - Abbie Stechschulte (CG) 16’5”
100 METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Aimee Gertsen (CG) 16.3
*NR 300 METER LOW HURDLES - Abbie Stechschulte (CG) 47.7
100 METER DASH - Melissa Metzger (FJ) 13.0
*NR 200 METER DASH - Lauren Slusser (CG) 27.1
*NR 400 METER DASH - Lauren Slusser (CG) 1:01.0
*NR 800 METER RUN - Kinsey Miller (PG) 2:25.3
*NR 1600 METER RUN - Kinsey Miller (PG) 5:19.2
*NR 3200 METER RUN - Sarah Eubank (PG) 11:40.4
*NR 400 METER RELAY - Natalie Stechschulte, Diana Smith, Heather Kaverman and Melissa Metzger (FJ) 51.6
*NR 800 METER RELAY - Melissa Metzger, Natalie Stechschulte, Diana Smith and Heather Kaverman (FJ) 1:47.6
*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Diana Smith, Heather Kaverman, Jessica Metzger and Melissa Metzger (FJ) 4:07.4
*NR 3200 METER RELAY - Kinsey Miller, Jenny Lee, Sarah Eubank and Katie Diller (PG) 9:51.9