

Double Placements Help Grove Girls Claim Title

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Columbus Grove had a goal as they looked to repeat as Putnam County Track and field champions Friday night. The Bulldogs' goal was to place at least two athletes in every event possible. Grove fell short of that goal, but they still managed to have a comfortable margin at the end of the meet.

Columbus Grove repeated as league track champions as they won with 171 points Friday night on their home track. Fort Jennings cruised to second place with 105 points followed by Pandora-Gilboa with 89 points and Ottoville was fourth with 80 points. Continental took fifth with 40 points and Leipsic had two points for sixth place.

The Bulldogs went into the meet looking to place two athletes among the top six finishers in every event. They failed in just two events, one being the high jump where they had just one jumper and the other the long jump where their second athlete placed seventh. Other than that the Bulldogs were right on schedule.

"Our goal was to score two people in every event," Grove coach Connie Arthur said. "It worked in all but two events so that shows depth and balance all over; every event was covered very well. I'm surrounded by a group of great athletes. They're progressing through the season, just like we want them to. We continue to see their times improve, distances improve and it has been great fun to coach these girls."

Two of the athletes the Bulldogs admire is sophomore Abbie Stechschulte and junior Lauren Slusser. Stechschulte broke two individual meet records and had three meet records overall Friday night as she was in on three wins. Slusser helped anchor three relay wins at the PCL and picked up an individual win in a new event to her.

Stechschulte got the Bulldogs rolling Friday night as she and Ottoville freshman Chelsea Burgei went head-to-head in three events. Stechschulte set a new record in the long jump as she had a leap of 17'10" to surpass the 1987 record of 16'10 3/4" of Miller City's Amy Vennekotter. Burgei finished second in this event as she also surpassed the old meet record with a lead of 17'5".

In the 100 hurdles Stechschulte set record number two, winning with a time of 15.46, breaking the 1979 record of 15.8 set by Dawn Winkle of Continental. Burgei finished second with a time 15.68.

The sophomore's final win came in the 1600 relay as she joined Slusser, Susan Gertsen and Brittany Begg to win with a time of 4:06.27, also a new meet record. The old record was 4:07.4 set by Fort Jennings last year.

The 1600 relay was Slusser's fourth win of the evening as she also had wins in the 400 and 800 relays and the 800 meter run.

In the 400 relay Slusser joined Angie Schreiber, Begg and Ali Hoffman to win with a time of 51.6, tying the meet record set by Fort Jennings last year. In the 800 relay Schreiber, Gertsen, Begg and Slusser ran a 1:48.22 for a win.

In the 800 meter run Slusser ran away from the field to post a new meet record-winning time of 2:19.22. The old meet record was set in 2000 by Kinsey Miller of Pandora-Gilboa.

Begg picked up an individual win in the 400 as she was just off the meet record. Begg won with a time of 1:01.06 and the meet record is 61.0.

In the 200 dash Schreiber won with a time of 27.39 after finishing second in the 200 dash.

Bethany Fuerst provided a win for Columbus Grove in the shot put with a throw of 35'8".

Burgei managed two wins Friday nights as she won the high jump having cleared 5'2". She then won the 300 hurdles in a record time 45.43 slipping past Stechschulte in the final 60 meters. The old record belonged to Stechschulte who ran a 47.7 in 2000.

Pandora-Gilboa's Sarah Eubank made her final PCL a memorable one with three wins. Eubank joined Becca Miller, Kara Diller and Jenny Lee to win the 3200 relay in a time of 10:13.22. The senior then won the 1600 meter run in a time of 5:26.16 and won the 3200 meter run for the second straight year; she won with a time of 12:01.06.

Stacy Smith also picked up a win for the Rockets in her final PCL meet winning the discus with a throw of 112'1".

Fort Jennings Diana Smith won the 100 dash with a time of 13:04.

SUMMARY

Columbus Grove 171, Fort Jennings 105, Pandora-Gilboa 89, Ottoville 80, Continental 40 and Leipsic 2.

SHOT PUT - Bethany Fuerst (CG) 35'8"

DISCUS - Stacy Smith (PG) 112'1"

HIGH JUMP - Chelsea Burgei (Ottoville) 5'2"

*NR LONG JUMP - Abbie Stechschulte (CG) 17'10"

*NR 100 METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES - Abbie

Stechschulte (CG) 15.46

*NR 300 M. LOW HURDLES - Chelsea Burgei (Ottoville) 45.43

100 METER DASH - Diana Smith (FJ) 13.04

200 METER DASH - Angie Schreiber (CG) 27.39

400 METER DASH - Brittany Begg (CG) 1:01.06

*NR 800 METER RUN - Lauren Slusser (CG) 2:19.22

1600 METER RUN - Sarah Eubank (PG) 5:26.16

3200 METER RUN - Sarah Eubank (PG) 12:01.06

*TR 400 METER RELAY - Lauren Slusser, Angie Schreiber,

Brittany Begg and Ali Hoffman (CG) 51.6

800 METER RELAY - Lauren Slusser, Angie Schreiber, Susan

Gertsen and Brittany Begg (CG) 1:48.22

*NR 1600 METER RELAY - Abbie Stechschulte, Lauren Slusser,

Susan Gertsen & Brittany Begg (CG) 4:06.27

3200 METER RELAY - Sarah Eubank, Becca Miller, Kara Diller

and Jenny Lee (PG) 10:13.22.