

Columbus Grove Girls Win PCL Championship

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OTTOVILLE – To win a league track and field championship coaches need to put the correct pieces of a puzzle together to build a strong lineup.

And when injury scares crop up coaches need to adjust their lineup in an effort to fill those voids to maximize points.

Columbus Grove's coaches were able to build a strong lineup Friday night in winning the Putnam County league Track and Field championships at Ottoville High School.

The Lady Bulldogs won seven events Friday night at the Bob Kaple Athletic Complex to unseat defending league champion Kalida 207 to 164. Ottoville finished third with 77 points and Leipsic was fourth with 65 points.

"It worked," Columbus Grove coach Abbie Norton said. "I talked to Chris Grothaus, Tim Staley and my assistant Susan Jones. It's a big puzzle and I think we finally found the correct pieces here."

"In the past we've had the pieces right, but what was different this year is that these girls showed up across the track and field. I couldn't be more proud of them. They were ready to go today; they wanted this."

One of the concerns for the Bulldogs heading into the meet was hurdles as one of their top hurdles has been battling an injury all season and the other fell last week and broke her wrist. Instead of looking at not being able to score in the two hurdle events, Columbus Grove finished with 32 points as Bree Closson ran with a cast on her broken wrist to win the 300 hurdles (47.41) and finish second in the 100 hurdles (15.69). Kendal Palte returned to the lineup to finish third in the 100 hurdles (16.66).

While facing the possibility of not scoring in the hurdles, the Bulldogs turned to senior Lauryn Auchmuty to run the 300 hurdles. After a couple days of training, she finished second in 48.07.

"We had one girl getting a CT scan this week and another an MRI. We were like what are we going to do, we can't take zero points in the hurdles," Norton said. "We were like let's try Lauryn in the 300 hurdles, it's close to a 200 and 400 and she is a great athlete. We ran her in practice and coach Derek Rieman, our hurdles coach, showed me her time running by herself and it was a really good time."

Besides placing second in the 300 hurdles, Auchmuty finished third in the 100 (13.07) after winning the long jump at 16-10 and winning the pole vault, clearing 12-3 to break the Grove school record in the event. She attempted to break the PCL record of 12-7, but was unable to do that.

Columbus Grove won three relays at the meet as the 4x100 team of Allison Thompson, Kendal Palte, Bryn Halker and Jade Roeder won in 51.14. Thompson, Closson, Halker and Roeder won the 4x200 in 1:49.24, while Closson Aubrey Schroeder, Roeder and Devanie Pingle won the 4x400 in 4:15.79.

Pingle won the 800 meter run in 2:25.68.

"These girls were just calm, cool and ready to go today," Norton said. "Success breeds success. State Semi-Finals in soccer, State Championship in basketball and it's funny because Susan and I are sitting there and every one of those starters are on the track team. It's fun to have those athletes running track."

Kalida made a run at repeating as league champions as they won six events led by junior Lauren Laudick.

Laudick broke a meet record Friday in the 400 dash running a 59.18 that broke Shayla Siefker's record of 59.80.

"In the 400 I reset my old meet record from last year. That was good that I won that," Laudick said. "And I won the 200. That was tough after just having run the 400, but the other week I ran the 800 after the 400 and that is a lot shorter recovery time."

After winning the 400, Laudick won the 200 dash in 26.73. The junior started her night joining Allie Kuhlman, Ady Miller and Mallory Kerner to win the 4x800 relay in 10:27.50. Laudick finished fourth in the 100 dash at 13.14.

Mia Burgei won the shot put (39-6) and discus (123-6) for the Lady Cats and Addilyn Huber won the high jump at 4-11, based on misses at lower heights.

Leipsic's Morgan Apple won the 100 dash in 12.96 after winning the 100 hurdles in 15.46.

Miller City's Adrea Pfau swept the distance events as she won the 1600 meter run in 5:16.49 and the 3200 meter run in a meet record time of 11:22.82.

"My goal was to break both records," Pfau said. "But in the mile, I don't think I had enough of a push (as she won the race by 18 seconds). I was mainly going for the two mile as my coach Alyssa Ellerbrock, who is from Columbus Grove, wanted me to break it. I was trying really hard to break it."

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SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 207 (2) Kalida 164 (3) Ottoville 77 (4) Leipsic 65 (5) Pandora-Gilboa 44 (6) Miller City 41 (7) Continental 17 (8) Fort Jennings 13

SHOT PUT – Mia Burgei (K) 39'6"

DISCUS – Mia Burgei (K) 123'6"

HIGH JUMP – Addilyn Huber (K) 4'11"

LONG JUMP – Lauryn Auchmuty (CG) 16'10"

POLE VAULT – Lauryn Auchmuty (CG) 12'3"

100 M. HURDLES – Morgan Apple (L) 15.46

300 M. HURDLES – Bree Closson (CG) 47.41

100 METER DASH – Morgan Apple (L) 12.96

200 METER DASH – Lauryn Auchmuty (CG) 26.73

*NR 400 METER DASH – Lauren Laudick (K) 59.18

800 METER RUN – Devanie Pingle (CG) 2:25.68

1600 METER RUN – Andrea Pfau (MC) 5:16.49

*NR 3200 METER RUN – Andrea Pfau (MC) 11:22.82

4x100 METER RELAY – Allison Thomson, Brynn

Halker, Kendal Palte and Jade Roeder (CG) 51.14

4x200 METER RELAY – Allison Thompson, Lauryn

Halker, Bree Closson and Jade Roeder (CG)

1:49.94

4x400 METER RELAY – Jade Roeder, Bree Closson,

Aubrey Schroeder and Devanie Pingle (CG)

4:15.79

4x800 METER RELAY – Allie Kuhlman, Ady Miller,

Mallory Kerner and Lauren Laudick (K) 10:27.50