SWC meet is Saturday.

LEXINGTON—Gusty winds hampered some competitors at the Don Bader Invite in Lexington on Friday.

Others took the constant blowing in stride.

Gothenburg juniors Joslyn Oliver and Abby Ambler earned three medals each while teammates Ali Abramson, Tabitha Paul, Payton Prall and Emily Max got two apiece in what some area coaches refer to as a “mini state” meet.

The Bader Invite brings together some of the area’s best athletes from Ogallala to Kearney and many schools in between. Results are strictly individual with eight places awarded and no team scores.

“Overall, I was pretty pleased with the performances,” said Swede coach Steve Reeves.

With many Swedes at the district music contest on Friday, Reeves said he backs off the volume of events a bit to give athletes a break.

“We’re still a little banged up,” he said. “This gives us a chance to heal up as we head into conference and district time.”

None of the Swede girls earned gold medals against competition from all classes but that doesn’t mean there weren’t some top performances.

Ambler, for instance, broke into the Swede all-time list in the 300 hurdles with a third-place time of 50.7 seconds. She is now tied at No. 10 with Kayla Tryon, who ran that time in 2008.

“Abby ran a really competitive race,” Reeves said. “She is working hard to improve each week.”

Ambler also placed sixth in the long jump and ran the opening leg of the sixth-place 4x100 relay.

Oliver finished third in the triple jump, third in the high jump and eighth in the 100-meter hurdles.

“This meet gives us an idea what kind of competition we’re going to see coming down the stretch,” Reeves said of Southwest Conference and district meets to come.

Gothenburg travels to Ainsworth on Saturday for the SWC meet.

Reeves said Gothenburg will have plenty of competition for the conference title.

Cozad will earn plenty of points in the throwing events, he said, and because they have not seen Minden or Ainsworth on the track, the Whippets and Bulldogs present an unknown factor.

“We’re going to hopefully be healthy and mentally ready to compete,” Reeves said.

The meet is scheduled to begin with field events at 11 a.m.

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