

Golfers struggle on home course

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swedes finish in tie for 11th place Gothenburg sophomore Jackson Graham shot his best 18-hole score of the season at Wild Horse Golf Club on Thursday during the Gothenburg Invite and he still missed out on a medal by two strokes.

Graham carded an 89 to lead the Swedes but Gothenburg's team score of 373 was only good enough to tie for 11th in a field of 14 teams.

Scottsbluff took the title with 330 and Ogallala was second at 340.

"I thought we would have a team score of 350 or under which would have put us in the top six," said Swede golf coach Jim Henke. "I guess we will have to wait until district to see if we can put it together on our home course."

Chadron was the only school of 12 in the B-4 district not represented at the Gothenburg Invite.

Weather played a part in Gothenburg's struggles, Henke said.

"The guys had to play in the rain for the first hour, then periodic light rain the rest of the morning," Henke said. "After that, the only bothersome thing was the wind."

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The Swedes all started on the back nine and Henke said most of them struggled there.

Graham shot a solid 42 on the back nine and then hit 47 on the front.

“Derek (Franzen) and Jeramie (VanAcker) didn’t have anything go right on the back nine,” Henke said, “but they came back better on the front.”

Franzen’s score of 56 on the back put him out of the running to place but he came back to score 45 on the front.

VanAcker had the same sort of problem, hitting 54 on the first round and improving to 43 on the front nine.

Donavon Weedman of North Platte took top honors with a score of 74. Tanner Collins of Ogallala was runner-up with 77.

Gothenburg travels to Broken Bow on Friday and then to the Southwest Conference meet May 7 at Broken Bow.

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