

Three straight titles

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swede boys cruise to SWC championship.

AINSWORTH—Wind gusts up to 40 mph dictated many performances during the Southwest Conference track meet at Ainsworth on Saturday.

Many times and attempts for Gothenburg participants weren't anywhere close to personal bests.

“You want kids to post good marks,” said Gothenburg track coach Steve Reeves, “but then you look at things at the end of the day and it's the team championship that counts.”

The Swede boys scored 150 team points to win their third straight SWC title with seven individual gold medals.

Gothenburg placed at least one boy in every event except the 4x100 relay—the baton fell to the track—and the pole vault which had to be canceled due to the dangerous wind conditions.

“We scored some pretty good points in the field events,” Reeves said. “Then when we get on the track, we're pretty tough to beat.”

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BOYS TEAM SCORING
1. Gothenburg 190; 2. Broken
Bow 109; 3. Mission 89; 4. Ogala-
lala 87; 5. Valentine 31; 6. Cozad
26; 7. Ainsworth 12.

Junior Tannor Mroczek led the way with three first-place finishes. He won both the 100 and 200 as well as the long jump.

Mroczek's time of 10.7 seconds in the 100-meter dash ties the SWC meet record. He was awarded the Mark Russell Outstanding Athlete award for the meet.

Teammate Mark Hilderbrand won both hurdle events while Andrew Collins took first in the 800 and Patrick Reeves captured the triple jump.

"We had some outstanding things happen, despite the weather," Reeves said.

While the gold medalists often get the majority of the attention, Reeves said it's the accumulation of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-place finishes that really help rack up the points.

Gothenburg has just one meet left before the B-6 district on May 13.



The Swedes travel to Cozad Friday for a five-team invite that includes all SWC opponents except Valentine and Ainsworth. Field events begin at 4 p.m.

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“The Cozad meet is a lower-profile meet,” Reeves said. “We’ll use it as a tune-up for the district.”

The B-6 district meet at Scottsbluff is set to begin with field events at 11 a.m. MT.

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