

Swede girls give best performances at district

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swede girls establish four new marks on school's Top 10 list.

SCOTTSSBLUFF—Sometimes, a district meet will cause high school competitors a bad case of nerves.

Other times, it brings out the best in them.

If the Swede girls had any butterflies at Thursday's B-6 district track meet in Scottsbluff, they were well hidden.

Gothenburg earned two individual gold medals, qualified six for the state meet in Omaha and finished fourth as a team.

On top of that, Gothenburg coach Steve Reeves said the girls achieved four all-time marks, including a school record.

"I'm just really proud of the way these kids competed," Reeves said. "Even the kids who didn't qualify for state performed to the best of their ability. We saw an awful lot of good things happen."

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Joslyn Oliver and Emily Max were gold medal winners and qualified for state in two events each.

Oliver cleared 5 feet, 3 inches in the high jump to win that event and she finished third in the triple jump with a distance of 33-3.



The junior competed in both events at state last year earning fourth in the high jump.

Max took first in the 300 hurdles and also finished second in the 100 hurdles.

Second place is great, Reeves said, but pales in comparison to breaking the school record with a time of 15.2 seconds.

Trina Franzen had the previous record of 15.37 seconds.

Max makes her fourth trip to state. She medaled in third place in the 300 hurdles last May.

“We were pretty certain we’d have two girls qualify for state after looking at entry comparisons on paper,” Reeves said of Oliver and Max.

Other girls also turned in solid performances to earn the trip to Omaha.

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Abby Ambler matched her personal best in the long jump with a distance of 15-9.75 to get third.

Ambler didn't earn a ticket to state in the 300 hurdles but improved her position on the all-time chart to from 10th to eighth with a time of 49.3 seconds.

Ali Clark was near her top performance as well clearing 9-2 for third in the pole vault.

Teammate Siera Schwanz fell just short of qualifying in the pole vault with fourth place but she moves into No. 9 on the school all-time chart by clearing 8-10.

Reeves said because distance races were loaded with talent, senior Ali Abramson had to run the race of her life to qualify.

She was up to the challenge. Abramson finished the 1600- meter run in 5:32.7 for fourth place and a return to state. The time moves her from fourth on the all-time chart to third in the event.

Tabitha Paul earned Gothenburg's final position at state.

Paul normally runs the 400, Reeves said. Because that race was filled with excellent runners from other schools, he decided not to enter her in it and instead saved her for the 200.

"It was her best shot to go to state," he said.

It worked out as she finished in 27 seconds flat.

"All in all, we had a really good day," Reeves said. "And we've got some potential to bring home

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state medals.”

McCook ran away with the girls team title with 118 points followed by Gering at 85 and Scottsbluff with 80.

The state championship begins Friday at Burke Stadium in Omaha.

Max will have the first event of the day for the Swedes in the 100-meter hurdles at 9:55 a.m. Ambler kicks off field events in the long jump at 11 a.m.

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