

Swede boys challenge top runners at Cozad

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg sets benchmark for season.

COZAD—Competition was potent for Swede runners at the Cozad cross country meet on Thursday.

That's all right with Gothenburg coach Steve Reeves. He believes being pushed by good runners from perennial favorites such as Kearney will help his Swede teams improve the mental and physical strategies of the sport.

"For the competition we faced, I thought we did real well," Reeves said.

Kearney High won both the boys and the girls team titles with runners finishing first and second in both divisions.

Gothenburg's boys came in third behind second-place Lexington, returning state champion in Class B.

"It was a tough field," Reeves said. "I thought to finish in the top five as a team we'd have to run pretty well."

Three Swede boys earned medals.

Junior Brett Dockweiler came in fourth. He finished behind Kearney's Jacob Olson and Nolan

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Zimmer, who placed fifth and sixth in the state in Class A last season.

Returning Class B state medalist Franklin Ibarra of Lexington was third.

“Brett ran a really strong race,” Reeves said. “Luke (Rehmert) and Bryce (Eggleston) ran extremely well also.”

Rehmert finished in seventh place and Eggleston got the last medal in 15th place.

“The other kids ran solid races as well,” Reeves said, “but we’ve still got some room for improvement.”

The boys started the season with a target on their back as the Swedes were rated at the top of Class C by the Omaha World-Herald.



“I don’t think that means so much right now,” Reeves said. “But that’s where I’d like to see us at the end of the year.”

On the girls side of the Cozad meet, Gothenburg finished eighth.

“Going in, we had a lot of unknowns in terms of how we would do,” Reeves said. “We found some areas to work on and we know we have to be more competitive.”

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Kearney took the top two slots as Jordyn Dahlke and Mandy Sughroue finished first and second.

Gothenburg freshman Abbie Mazour led the Swedes coming in 32nd among 62 runners.

“It was Abbie’s first time running at race distance,” Reeves said. “She will work to improve and so will the other girls.”

Gothenburg’s next meet is Saturday at the Broken Bow Invite. Reeves said it’s a large meet that encompasses Classes B, C and D.

“It will be a tough meet but that’s what we need to improve.”

Start time is 10 a.m.

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