OGALLALA—A flat cross country course with only minor dips and bumps such as Ogallala's West Wind Country Club may appear easier to runners from a bystander's viewpoint.

Actually, says Gothenburg coach Steve Reeves, the hills and valleys tend to serve as an equalizer in terms of running speed.

"I think we're more suited for the hills," Reeves said of his Swede team.

The 3.1-mile course was a fast one for host Ogallala, which took the boys team title at the C-4 district meet Thursday afternoon.

The Sidney Red Raiders finished second as a team and Gothenburg snuck into third ahead of Broken Bow to qualify for this week's state meet at Kearney.

"We knew all along this district was going to be tough," Reeve said. "Broken Bow was a handful and Cozad ran very well. We feel pretty fortunate given the circumstances to come home with third."

Those circumstances include a couple of top runners competing with injuries.

“And we’re still going to be in limbo this week as we prepare for state,” Reeves said.

Junior Brett Dockweiler, who has led the Swede boys all season, finished in fourth place visibly struggling against hip pain.

He came in behind winner Cole Wellnitz of Gordon-Rushville, Dillon McKeag of Ogallala and Dillon Dodson of Sidney.

“Brett ran an outstanding race for us,” Reeves said.

Swede senior Luke Rehmert was the only other medalist for Gothenburg finishing in 12th place.

“Luke ran a great race as well,” Reeves said. “It was a tough medal to get.”

Joshua Clark and Bryce Eggleson were 20th and 21st, respectively, with Chris Block and Aaron Collins finishing out the team.

“I think we’re just better suited for hills,” Reeves said, “and we’ve got a few coming up.”

The Kearney Country Club has plenty of challenging hills for the Swede runners.

The Class C boys are set to compete there at 3 p.m. Friday.

Gothenburg freshman girl Abbie Mazour also qualified to run at state.

Mazour finished sixth at the district meet with the girls getting eighth as a team.

“It’s really good to get Abbie there,” Reeves said of the state meet. “She has worked hard all year.”

Mazour was competitive through the middle of the race at Ogallala, Reeves said, helping push her

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