

Wrestlers dominate duals

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swedes defeat Hershey 42-25.

Friday's wrestling dual with Hershey gave Gothenburg grapplers one more chance to perform at home as the season quickly draws to a close.

It also allowed the Swedes to notch one more dual win in their belts.

The Swedes easily defeated Hershey 42-25 giving up two open weights.

"It gives us a chance to be at home and to maximize our matches for the weekend," said coach Eric Manstedt.

Head-to-head single dual meets are rare in today's scheduling, the coach said. Most teams opt for more matches at one outing.

But the meet with Hershey gave the Swedes a look at a new opponent with mostly full weights.

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“A dual like this allows you to be pretty focused on the opponent and to easily recognize your strengths and weaknesses,” Manstedt said.

There weren't a lot of Swede weaknesses to be seen.

“It was a good way for us to get sharpened up after a week of not-so-good practices,” Manstedt said.

One highlight of the meet, the coach said, was seeing senior Kyle Kleinknecht, who isn't a regular varsity wrestler, take his last home match at 140 pounds.

Kleinknecht led opponent Joey Sheets 5-3 heading into the final period. Sheets earned a reversal early to tie the score at 5-5.

With time winding down, Kleinknecht managed a reversal for the 7-5 victory.

“I was so glad to see him have a successful evening,” Manstedt said.

The Swedes finished with seven wins in the 10 matches wrestled with Hershey giving up two forfeits.

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