

Girls open season with encouraging performances

Written by Deb Egenberger
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KEARNEY—With a mixture of first-time and veteran competitors, Gothenburg track coach Steve Reeves was uncertain how the Swede girls would stack up at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Indoor Invite Saturday morning.

What he got was encouraging performances from both the young and experienced athletes.

Reeves had a limited number of girls entered in events. He said some Swedes were not yet ready to compete.

But those he put in the track and field events offered plenty of hope for the rest of the spring.

“We saw a lot of good things happen,” Reeves said. “We know now where we’re at and where we have to get better.”

Senior Abby Ambler earned Gothenburg’s only gold medal of the day.

She jumped a personal best 16 feet, 3.5 inches in the long jump to take first in that event.

Ambler also finished fifth in the 55-meter hurdles in a time of 10.16 seconds.

“That was a good start for her,” Reeves said.

Senior Joslyn Oliver was a dual medalist as well finishing second in the high jump clearing 5-0

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and earning fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 29-11.5.

“As Joslyn gets in better track shape, she’ll continue to get stronger,” Reeves said.

Pleasant surprises came from freshmen Regan Geiken and Abbie Mazour.

In their first varsity meets, Geiken earned third in the 800-meter run and Mazour was fourth in the 3200-meter run.

“It’s a good starting point,” Reeves said. “We will have to scratch and claw for every point we earn but I think these girls are willing to do that.”

The Swede girls have a full two weeks of practice before taking their skills outdoors. They compete next at the Ogallala Invite on April 2.