

Kottwitz pins way through Flatwater Fracas

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Swede wrestlers continue to improve

GRAND ISLAND—Progress doesn't always come by leaps and bounds.

Sometimes it appears through tiny steps.

Gothenburg wrestling coach Tom Scott said his Swedes didn't set the world on fire during the Flatwater Fracas in Grand Island over the weekend but they moved the only direction he wants them to go: forward.

The Swedes went 2-5 in dual action at the two-day meet in the Heartland Event Center.

It's a loud place full of action and distraction.

"We have issues any young team will have," Scott said. "Sometimes the kids have trouble listening and comprehending. It's hard but they have to learn to focus. That's the only way they're going to keep getting better."

In addition to dual wins over St. Paul and Doniphan-Trumbull, the Swedes were just a couple of tight matches away from beating Ralston Valley as well.

"If one or two things would have gone differently," Scott said, "we'd have won that one too. It looks like a 12-point loss but it was really much closer than that."

Junior Skyler Kottwitz finished with the best Swede record, winning his first match by forfeit before pinning his way to a perfect 7-0 record at 170 pounds.

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“This was a tough tournament and he’s in a tough weight class,” the coach said. “Skyler is doing well.”

There were other small victories as well.

For instance, after a disappointing loss Friday night, junior Tyson Miller came back Saturday with two pins and a forfeit win to finish the meet 5-2 in the 195- and 220-pound weight classes.

Scott said some Swede wrestlers were moved between weights to provide more possibilities for success.

“I wanted to put us in a position to have more success as a team and, for some guys, as individuals,” the coach said. “Most of the time it worked out the way it was supposed to.”

Scott said one highlight of the meet was a pair of pin victories for junior Talbot Buchholz.

“He’s rarely gotten out of the first period,” Scott said, “let alone won two matches in a row.”

But Buchholz finished the tournament Saturday afternoon pinning both Caden Lathrop of St. Paul and Jesse Antle of Doniphan-Trumbull.

“The kids finished with a little fire in their bellies,” Scott said. “We still have some things to learn and a ways to go to get where I’d like them to be but we’re making progress.”

The Swedes get a long holiday break as the varsity is not in action again until Jan. 5 at the Ogallala Invite.

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