

Wrestlers earn two dual wins at Ogallala

Written by Deb Egenberger
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OGALLALA—Gothenburg's wrestlers returned from the holiday break to win a pair of duals at the Ogallala Invite on Saturday.

The Swedes won over the host Indians 45-27 and defeated a thin Kimball team 66-12 with more forfeits than matches.

In another dual against Mitchell, the Swedes were leading the team score 24-0 but ended up losing 48-33 after a couple of matches saw swings from Gothenburg on top to Tiger wins.

Gothenburg coach Tom Scott said his wrestlers continue to battle against their youth and inexperience.

"Most of them are young kids," he said. "By this point in the season, though, they have to start getting over their youth and start learning from matches. They can't make the same mistakes during a match in Ogallala in January that they made at Columbus in December."

The Swedes left only one weight class open this week, the heavyweight, and Scott said he moved a couple of wrestlers around between classes to try and get them more wins.

"That didn't always work out," the coach said.

Senior Preston Franzen and junior Skyler Kottwitz went 4-1 on the day in their respective weight classes.

Franzen earned pins over Mitchell, Ogallala and Gordon-Rushville with a forfeit from Kimball in the 160-pound class.

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Kottwitz's only loss in the 171-pound weight class was to Mitchell. Scott said Kottwitz was ahead in the match with Brendan Swanson but got caught and put to his back.

"Skyler is wrestling well," the coach said. "He is 11-1 in his last 12 matches."

Senior Dillon Larson has reached his target weight at 152 pounds and also did well at Ogallala, coming away with three pins.

The Swedes will compete next at the East-West Challenge at Lexington on Friday.

The meet includes eight schools, Scott said, and the Swedes will face one of the best wrestling programs in the state right off the bat.

"We go up against Omaha Skutt Catholic first thing," he said. "It will give us a chance to gauge where we're at and see what kind of fight we've got in our kids."

The dual meet is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.