

Wrestlers each win one in Omaha

Written by Deb Egenberger

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State meet a time to seize opportunities

OMAHA—Carpe diem.

If there was ever an opportunity to reinforce the need to seize the day, the state wrestling tournament is a good reminder.

“You can’t be looking for the next move,” said Swede wrestling coach Tom Scott. “You have to score points at every possible opportunity.”

That’s a lesson two Swede wrestlers learned during three matches each at the Nebraska State Wrestling Championships in Omaha last week.

“Things move so much more quickly at the state meet,” Scott said. “A fraction of a second can change a whole match. At that level, there is such a small window for error.”

Junior Skyler Kottwitz and senior Dalton Goodwin saw the truth in that statement first hand as each went 1-2 in their respective weight classes.

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Each performed to his capability, Scott said, they just ran into some exceptional wrestlers.

Skyler Kottwitz, 170

Scott knew if Kottwitz could get past his first-round opponent Jacob Touchstone of Nebraska City, he would put himself in a position to medal.

“It was one of those high-end matches that on any given day could have gone either way,” the coach said.

Kottwitz was down 3-0 in the match when a takedown call that could have gone either way was given to Touchstone.



That put Kottwitz down 5-0 at the end of the second period and he simply couldn't recover as he suffered a loss by a 9-4 decision.

Scott said Kottwitz rebounded well in the first round of consolation wrestling, pinning Jesse Bowdino of Elkhorn 16 seconds into the second period.

“Skyler basically ran through him,” the coach said.

But Kottwitz's momentum stopped cold in the second period of his second consolation match when a split-second decision found him on his back.

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Aaron Hanlin of Pierce pinned Kottwitz at the 2:12 mark to end the Swede's medal hopes.

"Hanlin got a reversal on us at the beginning of the second period and Skyler lost where he was at for a second and got put on his back. That can happen so fast."

Kottwitz finished his junior season with a 34-16 record.

"Skyler earned some valuable experience at state that he will bring back to the program next year," Scott said.

Dalton Goodwin, 182

Goodwin's first match at state came against a solid wrestler from Schulyer that Scott knew was going to be difficult to beat.

Jonathan Parsons ended up getting a fifth-place medal.

"He was just really tough and he scored repeatedly on Dalton," Scott said. "It wasn't for a lack of trying."

Goodwin came back in the first round of the consolation bracket with a new attitude.

"Dalton really opened up in his second match," Scott said. "The Falls City guy never had a chance. Dalton just kept turning him and taking him down."

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Goodwin beat Chase Thompson in a 15-0 technical fall to advance to round two of the consolation bracket.

Close matches have fallen Goodwin's way much of the time this season but in his third match at state, luck wasn't on his side.

With the score tied 0-0 against Ben Stille of Ashland-Greenwood heading into the final period, Goodwin had the top position and simply had to hold on.

But with 10 seconds left, Stille managed a reversal and won by 2-0 decision.

"He was on top for 1:50 but he just couldn't hold on any longer," Scott said. "It was a heart-breaker."

Goodwin finished his senior season with a 33-18 record.

"I'm sure Dalton came away from state with a few lessons he wishes he could wrestle with again but he had a good year."