

Wrestlers' goal: Get better every day

Written by Deb Egenberger
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It wasn't the most flashy season in the record books for the Gothenburg wrestling team and there weren't any new records set by this year's grapplers.

Still, there was so much success in so many areas that coach Tom Scott can't pin down just one highlight for his 2012-13 team.

"Every day, they worked hard at being better wrestlers," Scott said. "The kids are doing the right things and sacrificing to improve. There are higher expectations to meet because the improvement is there."

The attitude of success trickles from the top down, the coach said. The three seniors this year modeled dedication for underclassmen.

"I think a lot of people underestimated their improvement between their junior and senior seasons," Scott said of seniors Preston Franzen, Dillon Larson and Dalton Goodwin.

Franzen, in only his second season wrestling, came out above .500 and Larson went from single-digit wins last year to a 27-19 record.

Then there is Goodwin, who not only achieved his ultimate goal of qualifying for state but also led the team in several statistical categories, including most wins.

"We're headed in the right direction," Scott said.

And while graduation will force new wrestlers to take on leadership roles, Scott will look heavily toward junior Skyler Kottwitz next season.

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A state qualifier this year, Kottwitz finished with a 36-16 record, the most pins on the team with 27 and the highest number of takedowns at 39.

“We will be in the hunt again next year because of our talent but we still want to get better every day,” Scott said. “Win, lose or draw, we want our opponents to walk out of the ring knowing they don’t want to wrestle any of us again.”