

Swedes get third, fifth at heated Cozad Invite

Written by Austin Benson

Friday, 13 September 2013 13:58 -



Gothenburg's cross country team faced an obstacle that couldn't be run past, jumped over or hidden from.

Friday, at the Cozad Invite, the temperature was more than 100 degrees at race time for the second year in a row.

That didn't stop the girls team from placing third overall with 59 points behind North Platte's 46 points and Lexington in first with 44.

Odaliz Santoyo of Lexington won the girls race with a time of 19:36.5.

Three Gothenburg girls medaled. Sophomore Sydney Gruber led the Swedes finishing in 10th place with fellow sophomore Destiny McVay finishing in 11th 35 seconds later. Jennifer Maline placed 15th.

Swede runners that were overcome by heat and unable to finish were Jaci Teahon and Keely Lecher.

"The girls really gave an outstanding effort," head coach Steve Reeves said. "The heat is something we practice in, but the conditions Friday added with the first meet made it tough."

Reeves said that when conditions are better he thinks seven girls could be the top runner on any given day.

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“They’re all good leaders and hard workers, which is a luxury to have,” Reeves said.

On the boys side of things, freshman Collin Hahn nearly cracked the top 10 finishing 11th.

Lexington took first place scoring 14 points. Gothenburg scored 103 points, good enough for fifth place.

Taking meet individual honors was John Mark Shields of Lexington with a time of 17:28.2.

“The guys team is a really young group, so I look for them to progress and get better as meets continue,” Reeves said.

He said he was happy with the way the boys competed but the runners need to work on bunching together.

Heading into the Lexington Invite on Tuesday (yesterday) Reeves wanted to see how his teams would hold up physically from the Cozad Invite.



“The main concern of our athletes is their health and well-being,” Reeves said. “We’ll have to monitor the status of them and see where we are at as a team dealing with heat.”

He said the Lexington Invite is an individual meet and that the Swedes will run and see what happens.

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“We can’t pick up the intensity of practice until it cools down,” Reeves said. “We will focus bunching together and finishing within 20 to 30 seconds of each other.”

GIRLS TEAM SCORING

1. Lexington 44; 2. North Platte 46; 3. Gothenburg 59; 4. Hastings 63; 5. McCook 70; 6. Minden 149.

SWEDE VARSITY GIRLS

10. Sydney Gruber 23:19

11. Destiny McVay 23:52

15. Jennifer Maline 24:28

Abbie Mazour 26:03

SWEDE JUNIOR HIGH

GIRLS RESULTS (1 MILE)

2. Kayla Weyers 6:01

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6. Alexis Boyd 6:19

9. Kori Kowaleski 6:23

11. Kaitlyn Kleinknecht 6:26

13. Natalie Kennicutt 6:30

16. Allison Nichols 6:33

22. Maggie Lafuze 6:56

24. Cheyenne McVay 7:05

45. Hannah Boyd 7:43

BOYS TEAM SCORING

1. Lexington 14; 2. McCook 62; 3. North Platte 74; 4. Minden 83; 5. Gothenburg 103; 6. Hastings 103; 7. Kearney 128; 8. Broken Bow 144; 9. Paxton 167.

SWEDE VARSITY BOYS

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11. Collin Hahn 19:04

Bryan Martinez 20:13

Seth Eggleston 20:44

Bryce Kowaleski 20:47

Joshua Elliot 21:30

SWEDE JUNIOR HIGH

BOYS RESULTS (1 MILE)

5. Ryan Healey 5:27

8. Blake Riley 5:37

12. Collin Brown 5:48

14. Tucker Bartlett 5:55

19. Brett Mazour 6:02

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38. Blake Sucha 7:30

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