

Girls take team title at Kearney

Written by Deb Egenberger

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EMILY MAX

ALI ABRAMSON

Multiple medalists boost Swedes.

KEARNEY—The Swede girls proved Friday that it's not always about getting first.

Although individual track goals are usually set to earn a gold medal, it doesn't take a bunch of event champions to win a team title.

With just two first-place finishes and 74.5 points, the Gothenburg girls beat Aurora by 3.25 points. That's the difference between two second-place medals and two thirds.

Swede senior Emily Max had already won the 55-meter hurdles and Ali Abramson had easily wrapped up gold in the 3200-meter run before the team score got tight in the Class B segment of the University of Nebraska at Kearney Indoor Invite at Cushing Coliseum.

Coach Steve Reeves said the Swedes needed some strong finishes to round out the meet and that's just what happened.

GIRLS TEAM SCORING	
1. Gothenburg 74.5	2. Aurora 71.25
3. Holdrege 59	4. Adams Central 50.5
5. Lexington 42.5	6. McCook 39.7
7. Council Bluffs 38	8. Osage 37.5
9. Central City 18	10. Hastings 16
11. Minden 12	

Running her second distance race of the day, Abramson trailed Kayla Karlson of Holdrege in the 1600-meter run through much of the middle part of the race.

Reeves said the senior runner came on strong toward the end to pass Karlson at the wire and finish second.

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Abramson's time was 6:03.2, only seven-tenths of a second ahead of Karlson.

A couple of races later, Abramson was back on the track with teammates Max, Tabitha Paul and Payton Prall for the 4x400 relay.

"Ali ran an outstanding leg of the relay," Reeves said, "and Emily passed a girl at the end again to get second. Those extra four points from those two close finishes were pretty valuable."

Reeves said he is proud of the way the girls competed as a whole in their first meet of the season.

Pushing hard to place and to get multiple places and team points in four events helped push the Swedes past Aurora.

"It's a good starting place for us," Reeves said. "We know we've got to get better and we know we're going to have to find some people to fill a few events but it's an encouraging way to start."

The girls don't compete again until they head outside for the Ogallala Invite on April 1. Start time for that meet is 10:30 a.m.

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