

Senior leadership propels boys to lopsided invite win

Written by Greg Viergutz

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Strong senior leadership is critical to the success of any team.

Gothenburg's boys track squad used strong senior contributions Thursday to capture its third straight Ed Moore Invitational championship at Ogallala.

"It was typical of the way they've competed all year," Swede coach Steve Reeves said. "It is a competitive bunch. It seems like we have got a little depth."

The Swedes breezed to the title scoring 188 points, over 70 more than runner-up Ogallala.

"You have to look at our senior class the way they are leading by example," the coach said. "We won nine events and we got second in four others. There are a lot of points that way."

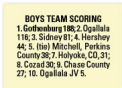
It was one of those seniors—Mark Hilderbrand—and junior Tannor Mroczek who led the medal onslaught. They were named the co-winners of the most valuable male athlete at the meet.

Hilderbrand ran for individual gold in the 400, 110 high hurdles and 300 intermediates and was a member of the winning 4x400 relay.

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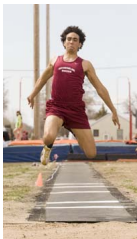
“Mark did an outstanding job,” Reeves said.

Mroczek set a meet record in the 100, won the 200, placed second in the long jump and anchored the victorious 4x100 relay.

“He really ran some outstanding races,” Reeves said. “He beat a kid that the week before had established some very good times.”

Senior contributions included a silver medal for Andrew Collins in the 400.

“Andrew ran the open quarter for the first time,” the coach said. “He really ran a nice time and came back and ran the 1600. That’s kind of a different combination. He really competed well.”



Collins won the 1600 with a time of 4:44.

Landen Haake, another senior, won the pole vault going 13-0 and joined classmate Eric Stevens and Brandon Wlasiuk and Mroczek in the 4x100 win.

Senior Patrick Reeves took the silver in the triple jump bettering his former personal best by over a foot.

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The 4x400 gold medal foursome was a senior group of Hilderbrand, Stevens, Reeves and Collins.

“We’re getting a lot out of the seniors,” the coach said. “The young kids are stepping in and doing a good job, too.”

Next up for Gothenburg is the Broken Bow Invitational which starts at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

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