Girls track team continues to improve.

Gothenburg track coach Steve Reeves relies on a handful of Swede girls to score the majority of the team points week in and week out throughout the season.

They pulled through again this week at home during the Dutch Zorn Invite on Friday.

Gothenburg finished second in the team standings with 106 points. McCook took the team title with 153 points.

“It was a quality field for the girls,” Reeves said. “McCook has depth in a lot of areas and that makes them tough to beat.”

Still, the Swedes did not disappoint their coach.

Two girls took first in four events.

Senior Emily Max won both hurdle events while junior Joslyn Oliver took first in the triple jump and the high jump.

GIRLS TEAM SCORING
1. McCook 153; 2. Gothenburg 106; 3. Kearney Catholic 87; 4. Sidney 81; 5. Lexington 75; 6. Ogallala 43; 7. Valentine 23; 8. Kearney JV 2.

Senior Ali Abramson scored in both distance races as well as running a leg of the third-place 4x400 relay.

“Ali continues to drop seconds off her times,” Reeves said. “She’s rounding into the form she was at the end of the season last year.”

Classmates Kira Peterson and Tabitha Paul also scored individually and on relays.

“We’ve got three or four girls who score a bunch of points for us,” Reeves said. “Then there are some younger kids who contribute too but who are still trying to find their niche.”

Reeves said the girls continue to work hard in practice, moving toward the goal of qualifying for state.

Because Gothenburg’s district music contest overlaps the Don Bader Invite in Lexington on Friday, Reeves said some Swede girls will compete at home Thursday instead during the Brady-Gothenburg Invite.

Either way, he said, the Swedes continue to push for season-best performances.

Thursday's meet begins at 3 p.m. while Friday's contest at Lexington starts at 12:30 p.m.

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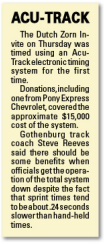

ACU-TRACK

The Dutch Zorn Invite on Thursday was timed using an Acu-Track electronic timing system for the first time.

Donations, including one from Pony Express Chevrolet, covered the approximate $15,000 cost of the system.

Gothenburg track coach Steve Reeves said there should be some benefits when officials get the operation of the total system down despite the fact that sprint times tend to be about .24 seconds slower than hand-held times.