

Banged up and bruised, wrestlers need a break

Written by Deb Egenberger
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GRAND ISLAND—Gothenburg's dual scores from the two-day Flatwater Fracas look a little lopsided.

Some of coach Eric Manstedt's wrestlers feel that way too.

"We're pretty beat up," Manstedt said. "We've got kids who are hurt and that seems to have snowballed over the weekend."

With several weights open, the Swedes went into the statewide dual meet knowing they were working toward individual goals rather than a team trophy.

The Swedes finished 3-5 overall in the eight duals with wins over Holdrege, Grand Island Central Catholic and Chapparral, CO.

Manstedt said the 39-39 tie score against Chapparral was decided by the eighth tie-breaker criteria which is most first match points scored.

Typically, the coach said, first points scored are from takedowns.

"We've been preaching about getting the first takedown and I guess that paid off," Manstedt said.

The Swedes had 14 first match points to Chapparral's two first points.

"We wrestled very well against them," Manstedt said.

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While the 3-5 team finish isn't what the Swedes hoped for, Manstedt said he's not disappointed.

"We were in a grueling pool and we're banged up," Manstedt said. "We've still got the whole second half of the season left to go and I think pretty much everybody will be back and we'll be going full-strength after the break."

Mitch Spiegel and Tanner Schwanz finished 6-1 and 7-1 on the weekend to lead the Swedes.

Gothenburg wrestlers have the next couple of weeks off before returning to the mat at the High Plains Invite in Clarks on Jan. 7-8.

"We have kids with 25 matches already," Manstedt said. "That's more than half our matches for the year. It's time for a break."

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