

Two state medalists

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Spiegel, Schwanz finish fifth, sixth against tough competition.

OMAHA—Before a single whistle blew to start the first wrestling match of the 2010-11 season in December, the Swedes had their sights set on bringing home medals from the state tournament.

As a team, Gothenburg set a goal to earn three state medals. They finished the Class B state meet in Omaha on Saturday with two.

“You take five wrestlers and you hope for five medals,” said Swede coach Eric Manstedt. “We were in a position on Friday to get five too but we only got two kids through the heartbreak round.”

Junior Mitch Spiegel finished fifth at 103 pounds and senior Tanner Schwanz was sixth at 130 pounds.

Both earned sixth-place medals last year.

“We couldn’t ask for any better chances,” Manstedt said. “We were really only out-matched once the whole meet.”

Gothenburg earned 39 points to finish 17th in the team race.

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State wrestling champion Glenn Barnett will be a graduate of First Covenant, St. Catharines. Barnett, 19, won the 107-pound title at the Ontario provincial tournament in St. Catharines on Feb. 13. He is a member of the St. Catharines Wrestling Club and has been wrestling since he was 10 years old. Barnett is a member of the St. Catharines Wrestling Club and has been wrestling since he was 10 years old.