

Golfers improve score to beat St. Pat's in dual

Written by Deb Egenberger
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The Gothenburg golf team shaved eight strokes off last week's dual score to beat North Platte St. Pat's at home on Thursday by a slim 180-181 score.

It wasn't the single stroke difference between the Swedes and the Irish that meant the most to coach Don Graham, though.

"We're getting better from one week to the next," Graham said. "That's all I can ask for."

Graham said he encouraged the boys to keep a solid focus throughout the dual to avoid costly mistakes and big numbers on individual holes.

"We did that for the most part," he said, "with the exception of a couple of kids who struggled with a couple of holes."

Jackson Graham shot the best score of the day for Gothenburg at 39 for the nine holes. Last week the junior shot 44 on the front nine.

Jared Arensdorf tied for low score, also carding 39 for the Irish.

Swede junior Jeramie VanAcker recorded a score of 40 in his first outing of the season for the second lowest of the meet.

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"I'm happy with our numbers," the coach said. "This week we're going to focus a lot on our short game."

He said if each of the players can cut down on putt numbers, taking two instead of three putts on a hole for instance, then their individual scores will improve and the overall team numbers will drop dramatically as well.

"I know they have it in them," Graham said. "If we can keep lowering the score from week to week, we may get where we want to be by the end of the season."

Winning the dual will help the Swedes with their confidence as they hit the busy part of the season.

Gothenburg will play Ogallala in another dual on Thursday at Wild Horse before the Swedes host the Gothenburg Invite April 21.

"That's when we head into more of the invite part of our season," Graham said.

Tee time on Thursday is 4 p.m.