

## Young runners compete well at Broken Bow

Written by Deb Egenberger

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**BROKEN BOW**—They didn't come home with medals in hand but Gothenburg cross country runners, especially the younger crew, are realizing victory doesn't only come from earning hardware.

The Swedes competed Saturday at the Broken Bow Invite on a moderate course.

"It's not too hard and it's not too easy," coach Steve Reeves said.

It was just right for the Swedes as they continue to work moving up in the ranks.

Gothenburg's girls were sixth as a team with a couple of runners just outside the top 15 who earned medals.

Sophomore Alayna Collins was four spots back in 19th as she finished in 17:42 and freshman Destiny McVay was close behind her in 22nd in 17:54.

"The girls really showed promise," Reeves said. "I think the young kids are finding they can be successful and they will push everybody to move up."

Cozad won the girls title, followed closely by McCook.

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On the boys side, Ogallala took first in the team standings with Ainsworth nipping on the Indians' heels.

Gothenburg finished 11th.

“For the young boys, this is really only their second varsity race,” Reeves said, “and they were running in a big field. They keep working to improve individually and we’ll get better as a team too.”

Aaron Collins was the top finisher for Gothenburg’s boys in 18:48.



The brightest spot of the day, Reeves said, was in the junior high races when the Swedes took first in both team competitions.

“There are a lot of good things to come,” Reeves said.

The Swedes will run at the Fillmore Central Invite on Thursday at Geneva.

Reeves said the meet gives Gothenburg a chance to get out of central Nebraska and face different teams than at local meets.

“Historically the kids have run some of their fastest times at this meet,” the coach said. “For whatever reason, they tend to perform well there.”

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The meet is set to begin at 5 p.m. Thursday.