

Wrestlers finish third at SWC

Written by Deb Egenberger
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AINSWORTH—Eleven of Gothenburg's 13 boys to wrestle in the Southwest Conference meet at Ainsworth on Friday came home with hardware.

Respectable results considering the Swedes were up against some top-notch competition, including several state-rated individuals.

Gothenburg finished third in the team standings with 90 points.

Returning Class C state champion Valentine took first in the conference with 180 points and Cozad was second at 121.5.

The Swedes came home with one runner-up, five third-place finishers and four in fourth place.

"That bunch of third places sets us up pretty well in the district," said Gothenburg coach Tom Scott. "Overall I was very pleased with our performance."

Junior Skyler Kottwitz earned the silver medal at 170 pounds.

Scott said Kottwitz showed just how much he had improved from last year when he pinned Nick Ormesher of Valentine in the first period.

"This is the same kid who beat Skyler by 15 points last year," the coach said.

At 120 pounds, Scott said freshman Brandon Stevens showed that persistence pays off when he earned a takedown against Toray Smith of Ogallala in the third period, put Smith to his back and then proceeded to win a shootout by 10-9 decision for third place.

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Others to get third were Tyler Alvarez at 113, Seth Eggleston at 126; Dillon Larson at 152, Preston Franzen at 160 and Dalton Goodwin at 182.

Fourth-place finishers were Hayden Hubbard at 106; Jayden Miller at 132, Tyson Miller at 195 and Dalton Sylvan at 220.

“The kids are improving every meet,” Scott said. “We have a difficult schedule and I just keep hearing from other coaches and wrestlers how these kids wrestle better than their record shows. That’s a huge compliment to us.”