

KHS, McCook battle to the end

Written by Greg Viergutz
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A couple of perennial track powers, Kearney and McCook, battled it out for the Dutch Zorn Invitational title Friday.

Despite officially bringing their reserve team, along with a few varsity performers, the Bearcats came out on top with 131.4 points, edging McCook with 127.

It all came down to the final race as Kearney held a slim 121.4 to 121 advantage going into the 4x400 relay. The Cats won the relay and McCook placed fourth.

Gothenburg scored 48.4 points for seventh place.

Injuries kept a couple of key performers out of action for the Swedes. Neither Aaron Collins nor Blake Ristine could compete eliminating potentially up to 20 points for Gothenburg.

Cold conditions cut short the meet while many track meets in the state were cancelled. There were no preliminary races. Field events were limited to four attempts.

“You just have to deal with the inclement conditions,” Gothenburg coach Steve Reeves said. “Overall, I thought the meet went off very well. Most people were very appreciative of just getting the meet in. Who knows what’s going to happen this week.”

Kearney JVs are pretty strong and obviously have a lot of depth, the coach said.

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“McCook has a nice, strong track team,” Reeves said. “They have three or four seniors who contribute a great deal to their squad. That allows them to have a little more depth than some of us.”

Skyler Kottwitz and Preston Franzen were the lone individual winners for Gothenburg.

Kottwitz made it safely over 13-6 in the pole vault to captured the gold medal.



“I’m real pleased with Skyler on winning the Jim Ambler Medal in the pole vault,” Reeves said. “That was a step forward for him.”

The Ambler Award is given annually to the top boy and girl vaulter at the Zorn meet.

Franzen was again strong in the hurdles events. He won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 41 seconds flat. He placed second in the 110-meter highs.

“Preston Franzen has been so solid for us,” Reeves said.

Logan Koehler was the only other silver medal winner. His high jump of 5-9 tied for second.

“He had some good attempts at the next height but just didn’t quite get over it,” the coach said. “He’s ready to move up a little bit in increments. Maybe if we get some nice weather that will happen.”

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Tanner Borchardt placed third in very competitive shot and discus events.

Gothenburg's next meet will be the Don Bader Invitational which has been moved to Friday starting at 12 noon at Lexington.