

Aggressive mentality on the mat pushes Swedes

Written by Austin Benson

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Gothenburg wrestlers to be on the offensive

Regardless of wrestling experience or physical appearance, each of the Swede wrestlers will share the same mentality.

“Attack, attack, attack,” head coach Tom Scott said. “I can’t change your experience but I can control your physical condition to fight a full six minutes.”

That offensive attitude has a chance to push the Gothenburg team towards the top of the Southwest Conference, Scott said.

Valentine and Cozad are the favorites right now but he said the Swedes could battle for second or third.

“If things fall the right way for us, who knows we may slip into the first place spot,” Scott said.

In the B-4 district, the spotlight is on Scottsbluff who finished runner-up in state last year and may have the best wrestler in the state, Scott said.

With the quality teams in both the SWC and district, Scott said he has a high goal for his team.

“We told the guys we’re looking for improvement each week,” Scott said. “The team’s end-all goal is for each competitor to medal at state, not just compete.”

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Some may think those are bold hopes for a team that only had three state qualifiers last season, but Scott has noticed improvements from the kids this offseason.

Gothenburg's wrestling team is showing it's committed to success.

Fourteen Swede wrestlers attended a three-day, technical and competition camp in Kearney this summer.

Scott said the experience of camp paid off as those wrestlers that went have shown improvement in the first week of practice.

However, Scott doesn't want to see improvement only, but progression, he said.

"The most important thing is that the kids are competing at the highest level as the season comes to an end," Scott said. "Win, lose or draw in their last match I want them to say that was the best they wrestled all year."

The team of 20 competitors is headlined by three seniors—Skyler Kottwitz, Tyson Miller and Talbot Buchholz.

While those three seniors combine for experience, the team has depth and a continued desire to improve down the line, Scott said.

He added that Dalton Sylvan came on strong at the end of the season and is a good competitor and Jayden Miller is the team's best middleweight wrestler.

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Scott said some newcomers to the sport have impressed him with skills and work ethic.

Ethan Bihlmaier and Alex Jorgenson have shown they have some gifts and could be successful, Scott said. Two other newcomers, Bryce Larson and Kaihden Dorsey, are working hard to improve.

Members of the 2013-14 wrestling team are (*denotes returning letter winners) :

Seniors—Talbot Buchholz*, Skyler Kottwitz* and Tyson Miller*.

Juniors—Tyler Alvarez*, Keyan Anderson*, Dirk Earll* and Dalton Sylvan*.

Sophomores—Ethan Bihlmaier, Luke Ferguson, Hayden Hubbard, Alex Jorgenson, Jayden Miller*, Tyler Miller*, Seth Portiner*, Chad Schmiett* and Brandon Stevens*.

Freshmen—Wyatt Anderson, Kaihden Dorsey, Quinten Fair, Dakota Huntington and Bryce Larson.

abenson@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636