

Kevin Tickle of Grant won a gold medal for the first time after years of competition in Special



Olympics.

This year he won the gold in the 25-meter backstroke swim competition at Special Olympics State Summer Games at Creighton University in Omaha.

“This year he won the gold by a fingernail,” said his coach, Susan Gieschen of Ogallala. “He and the second place were neck and neck. He just beamed and tears glistened in his eyes. He told me he had never gotten a gold before in swimming.” Once seated at the baseball game of Creighton University vs Wichita State at TD Ameritrade in Omaha, Geischen described Kevin as turning to her and saying, “Sue, this is my first baseball game. I’ve never been to a baseball game.”

Geischen told him it was his day of firsts—gold medals and games. Kevin then told Coach Julie Schwasinger that he couldn’t wait to get home to tell his sister.

“This day. This whole day! I have to tell her about my day,” said Kevin.

He also received a silver medal in the 50m dash and got a sixth place ribbon in shot put.

“Kevin and the other athletes like him is why I am involved in Special Olympics,” said Geischen. “Their stories warm my heart.”