

## Swedes run past Tigers

Written by Austin Benson

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Six TDs in the first half.

Gothenburg wasted very little time scoring the football against Mitchell on Friday.

In fact, Jacob Clark received the opening kickoff and ran it 90 yards for a touchdown.

Special teams was something the guys worked on last week, head coach Craig Haake said.

“I was pleased with that area until the second half,” he said.

The Swedes scored five times in their first nine plays en route to a 59-20 beat down of the Mitchell Tigers.

Haake said he had an idea the game would go that way but didn't plan for all the scoring to happen, he said.

“We went into that game with the mind set of controlling our own stuff,” Haake said.

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On its second possession, Gothenburg's Roy Slack ran up the gut into the endzone from 24 yards out to increase the lead 14-0 with 9:32 left in the first quarter.

After Mitchell's second straight three and out, a bad snap to its punter gave the Swedes the ball on the one yard line.

Zach Wolf took the handoff and scored extending the Swedes lead to 21-0.

Mitchell would be forced to punt again after three plays giving the ball back to the Gothenburg offense.

Blake Ristine threw one pass Friday night, and it was a 16-yard touchdown to Connor Schwanz.

One more runner would cross the goal line before the end of the first period for the Swedes.



Ross Ostendorf scampered in from the 40 yard line and the lead was 35-0.

Special teams practice continued to pay off for the Swedes two plays into the second quarter when Clark blocked a punt that was recovered at the six yard line.

Ristine would take one play to run in the sixth touchdown for the Swedes.

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“We played much cleaner and had less broken assignments than a week ago,” Haake said. “There is always stuff to work on but we took a step forward I think.”

Gothenburg began to sub in backups around the 10 minute mark and the scoring slowed down.

The Swedes moved the ball down the field but Mitchell forced a fumble.

The Tigers ended their series by going for it on fourth and 10. The pass was picked off by Dawson Graham and advanced to the Tiger 40 yard line.

The Swedes reached the 20 and sent in Trenton Long to try a 40-yard field goal.

The snap was good, the hold was good and the ball flew end over end well past the cross bar to cap the first half of scoring for the Swedes, leading 45-0.

The kids adjusted to the offense that they showed, Haake said. Mitchell had some sets that the team and staff were not ready for.

“In the end football comes down to who will block and who will tackle,” Haake said.

The first team offense for Gothenburg played one series in the second half, resulting in a touchdown by Ostendorf.

With 8:33 left in the third, Mitchell’s Abe Hernandez dropped the kickoff at the two yard line.

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When he picked it up he ran forward and went untouched for a 98-yard kick return.

“The younger kids will be addressed about that happening,” Haake said. “That is something that shouldn’t happen.”

Gothenburg used a steady diet of running the ball to tick away the third quarter going for it on fourth down on the Mitchell five yard line.

The Swedes turned the ball over on downs and Mitchell ran with the opportunity. Literally.

Quarterback Drew Gilliland took the ball down the right sideline for a 95-yard touchdown before a successful two-point conversion.

The Tigers trailed 52-14.

Jake Peterson ran the ball three times on the following drive for a total of 32 yards.

The last Swede touchdown came on a sweep right where Peterson won the race to the pylon and extended the lead to 58-14.

Haake said it was nice to get younger guys a lot of playing time because they had been practicing just as long as the varsity guys.

As time expired, Mitchell completed a 16-yard pass and made it to the endzone with a final score of 59-20.

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The Swedes will face a much more experienced and tougher team in Broken Bow Friday as the travel north to face the Indians.

“They are going to be a tough, physical and well coached team,” Haake said. “We have to play very responsibly on defense.”

Broken Bow knocked off Ogallala Friday night 14-13 in its first game of the season.

Haake said they run the ball a lot with the option look and have some studs. He added the Swedes have to play fast and cover assignments on every snap.

Offensively Gothenburg will look to burn the clock and take care of the ball.

“We have to control the ball and time of possession,” Haake said. “When we have long drives, we have to put points on the board.”

abenson@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636