

Third inning propels softball team to first win

Written by Greg Viergutz

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Winter double sparks momentum change.

Sometimes a promise, made with good intentions, can backfire.

Fortunately, that didn't happen for the Swedes in their season opening softball game last Thursday against Southern Valley at Stamford.

Gothenburg used a five-run third inning to break open the game en route to an 8-0 victory.

Anticipating an easier win, Swede coach Roger Neujahr told his team prior to the game that he would play the starters for two innings and then make wholesale changes, both on offense and defense. The same would occur two innings later.

However, Gothenburg scored just one run on three hits once through the batting order.

"We started slow," the coach said. "What caused that I'm not sure."

Then came the changes and a change in Swede luck. Three walks and a single quickly followed. The difference maker, though, was a two-run double by KaTrina Winter.

"You could just feel that the momentum shifted when she got the double and drove in the two runs," Neujahr said.

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By the time the rally ended, the Swedes were on top 6-1.

Roni Putnam scored a run in the fourth after walking. Alisha Ballmer blasted a home run over the left field fence in the fifth.

The game ended after five innings.

Jordyn Haake and Amanda Barkmeier split action on the mound with Barkmeier picking up the win in relief.

Gothenburg travels to Cozad Thursday and will play in the Lexington-Holdrege Softball Classic Saturday.

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