

Swedes open with victory over Ord

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Coach calls young team work in progress.

First-game jitters combined with a lack of varsity experience left Gothenburg football coach Craig Haake with a long to-do list Friday night after the Swedes defeated Ord 14-6 at home in the 2010 season opener.

“We’re not a finished product by any stretch of the imagination,” Haake said. “It’s going to be a work in progress.”

The good thing, he said, is that most of what went wrong can be fixed.

“We’re a young team,” he said. “We’re playing a lot of juniors and a lot of kids with little or no varsity experience. They’re going to make mistakes.”

But when it came down to the bitter end, the Swedes held their ground.

Leading 14-6 with less than five minutes to play, the Swedes were forced to punt near mid-field.

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Two penalties and three punts later, Ord got the ball in Swede territory.

After a roughing the passer penalty and a pass interference call against Gothenburg, Ord was on the 11-yard line.

“We stiffened up when they got inside the 15,” Haake said. “We should be large and in charge, a physical hitting team every play but there were times we found ourselves not being the aggressor.”

Gothenburg stopped that scoring drive with a fumble recovery by Branndon McMichael.

“Then we turned the ball over ourselves,” Haake said.

Inside the 20-yard line again with 1:23 to play, Ord’s quarterback Geoff Forth found Derek Sintek open in the endzone but the receiver trapped the ball against the ground and the pass was ruled incomplete.

Forth threw toward the endzone twice more but couldn’t connect with a receiver.

“We got an opportunity to see what we need to work on,” Haake said. “A lot of things we can correct.”

The coach said he was pleased with how the Swedes jumped out of the gate moving the ball down the field to the 15-yard line in the first quarter.

But the drive stalled and Gothenburg’s field goal attempt by freshman Trent Long flew wide.

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“He’ll get those with experience,” Haake said of Long.

Ord scored first with seven minutes to play in the second quarter on a 1-yard run by Forth.

Gothenburg returned the favor two and a half minutes later with a 19-yard run by Dillon McMichael. The PAT by Long gave the Swedes a slight 7-6 lead.

Two minutes into the second half, the Swedes scored again on a 64-yard run by sophomore Logan Sheets.

“That was actually a messed up play that turned into a touchdown,” Haake said. “We only

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