

Teamwork key to volleyball win

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swedes down Indians in five.

When Swede volleyball coach Becky Costello says it took a total team effort for her girls to defeat Broken Bow at home Thursday night, she's not kidding.

Thirteen Swedes saw the floor during the varsity match, in and out throughout the five sets.

A high school coach can make 18 substitutions in one set.

"I came close more than once to running out of substitutions," Costello said. "We really had to watch that."

The teamwork and determination, Costello said, were what gave the Swedes a 25-16, 22-25, 25-13, 20-25, 15-12 victory.

"We were kind of up and down all night," Costello said. "I guess that's to be expected as young kids come off the bench."

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The momentum swayed from one side of the net to the other several times throughout the match, a sign of two evenly matched teams, Costello said.

“We just need to relax, eliminate errors and play the game,” the coach said.

In the first set, Gothenburg came out roaring, communicating well and attacking the ball.

Costello said she felt like the girls relaxed a little too much in the second set which caused more missed serves and a few hitting errors.

“Once we got behind, we struggled,” she said.

Gothenburg came back full force in the third set with more aggressive play.

“I think Joslyn (Oliver) was really warmed up by the third set,” Costello said. “She played very well and that led to others stepping up.”

The Swedes didn't have a single hitting error in the third set and at the same time put down six ace serves.

“We were on a roll but in the fourth set we had a few errors that allowed Broken Bow to get up on us,” Costello said. “Then we had to play from behind.”

The Indians pushed to a 9-4 advantage in the final set and it looked like Broken Bow might cruise to a win. Costello called a timeout.

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"I just told them to settle down and play aggressive," she said.

The Swedes battled back with the help of four straight serves and three points earned by freshman Taylor Mroczek.

In no time, the score was tied 12-12.

"The kids just kept fighting," Costello said. "I'm really proud of the way they hung in there."

Janae Wiggins served out the end of the match and Abie Jensen stuffed Broken Bow with a block for match point.

"As long as everyone knows their role and is willing to accept that, we'll be fine," Costello said.

After a triangular Tuesday night at Southwest, the Swedes travel to Valentine for the Southwest Conference tournament on Saturday.

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