Field goal lifts Swedes to victory

Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 09 September 2010 19:36 -

Freshman hits 36-yard kick with seconds left.

MINDEN—Gothenburg football coach Craig Haake admittedly knows little about the mechanics of kicking field goals.

His last words of advice to Swede freshman Trent Long Friday night were, "Keep your head down."

Whether the young kicker followed that direction or not, Haake doesn't know.

All that matters, the coach said, is that with a only handful of seconds on the clock, the youngster hit a 36-yard field goal that would likely have been good from 45 yards to boost the Swedes past the Whippets 24-21.

"Trent stayed calm even though Minden took two time-outs to try and ice him," Haake said. "He did a great job."

The winning kick topped several edge-of-your-seat situations throughout the football game.

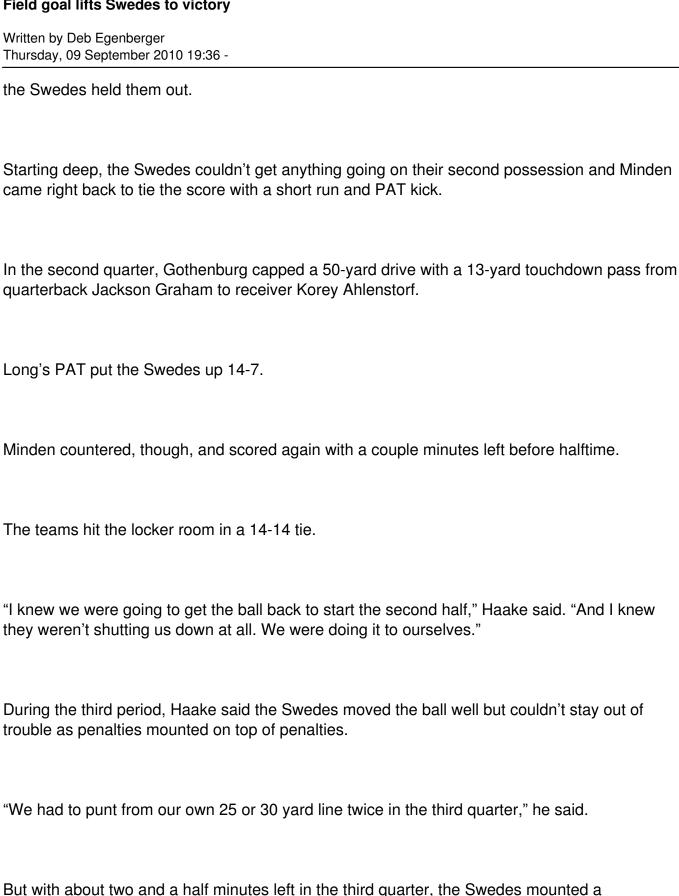
To start with, senior Dillon McMichael broke through Minden's wedge on Gothenburg's opening kickoff to force a fumble and recover the ball on the Whippet 25 yard line.

After five plays, Swede running back Tyler Aden carried the ball in from 4 yards out and Long hit the PAT for an early 7-0 Gothenburg lead.

Minden threatened to score on the kickoff, returning the ball to Gothenburg's 20 yard line but

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Graham to Ahlenstorf.



methodical 85-yard drive that included what Haake called a beautiful 20-yard pass play from

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That drive, which lasted well into the fourth period, ended with a 13-yard touchdown run by Aden and a PAT by Long.

"We ate up a lot of clock," Haake said. "Our offensive line was teeing off and we were in total control."

Trailing 21-14 with roughly three minutes left in the ball game, Minden returned the ensuing kickoff 89 yards to tie the score again.

"That was really a downer," Haake said. "Minden hadn't done much at all in the second half and we went from feeling very good about things to being in question again."

Haake had no timeouts left but said he felt like three minutes gave the Swedes time to do what they needed to do.

"We moved the ball well," the coach said. "Tyler did a lot of work running, ripping off chunks of yardage."

From the Minden 37 yard line, Graham fit a pass into a small window and

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