

Big innings lead to pair of Swede losses

Written by Greg Viergutz
Thursday, 09 September 2010 19:39 -

Gothenburg finishes sixth.

Two innings out of the 17 played Saturday at the McCook Invitational tell the story for the Gothenburg softball team.

The Swedes gave up 16 runs in three games at the tournament. Thirteen were scored in those two innings leading to a pair of losses.

“We couldn’t stop the bleeding,” Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. “We lost because of it.”

The Swedes placed sixth in the tournament while Cozad beat McCook in the championship game.

Gothenburg, now 5-4, returns to McCook for a game Thursday before traveling to Scottsbluff for a two-day tournament Friday and Saturday.

The Swede varsity opens the tourney against Chase County at 10:30 a.m. Friday. Other games include Scottsbluff at 12 noon Friday, Gering at 9 a.m. Saturday followed by Alliance at 12 noon and Chadron at 1:30 p.m. Gothenburg reserves will play three games.

Bad start dooms Swedes

Two walks, two errors and three hits put Gothenburg in a deep hole that led to a 6-3 loss to Gering.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 5-0 lead before the Swedes even came to bat.

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“It’s pretty hard down 5-0 in fast-pitch softball to recover,” Neujahr said. “We just couldn’t control our pitching and, obviously, with two errors, we didn’t control our fielding either.”

To win, the Swedes needed to limit the Bulldogs while finding some offense. They accomplished the first part, holding Gering to just one more run.

While the Swedes banged out 11 hits, the Bulldogs shut down every rally attempt limiting them to single runs in the first, third and sixth innings.

Roni Putnam finished the game 3-for-3 while KaTrina Winter and Taylor Wolf each had a pair of singles.

Offense produces

Gothenburg exploded for 18 hits in a 13-2 victory over Chadron.

“We started putting pressure on and didn’t quit and we hit the ball well,” Neujahr said. “We started hitting and just kept hitting.”

A pair of five-run innings put the Cardinals down 10-2 after two.

Doubles by Karen Franzen and Payton Prall powered

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