

Softball team takes third at Scottsbluff

Written by Greg Viergutz
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Some easy wins and a couple of competitive losses were what the Gothenburg Swedes brought home from the two-day Scottsbluff Invitational last weekend.

The Swedes lost games to Scottsbluff and Gering while defeating Chase County, Alliance and Chadron. The team ended up third.

Three Swedes were named to the all tourney team: Shelby Eggleston, Roni Putnam and Amanda Barkmeier.

Next up for 8-7 Gothenburg is a home contest Thursday against Holdrege (9-5).

The Swedes will play in the Grand Island Northwest Invitational Saturday. Gothenburg opens the tournament at 10:45 a.m. against High Plains (1-9). Other teams in the competition are Boone Central (8-7), Aurora (6-9), Adams Central (7-8), St. Paul (5-3), Central City (1-9) and host Northwest (8-5).

JVs contribute to win

Gothenburg's reserves played a major role in a 5-3 victory over Chase County to open the tournament.

Six JV players started for the Swedes against what the coaches anticipated being an overmatched Longhorn squad.

"We were kind of flat and I kind of expected that," Gothenburg coach Roger Neujahr said. "We had 11 hits and couldn't just get that big hit that could break the game open."

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Chase County scored a run in the first inning to take a lead. The Swedes finally broke through for three runs in the third.

Payton Prall tripled in one run while Hanna Wolf followed with a run-scoring single and another came home on a double by Taylor Wolf.

The Longhorns knotted the score at 3-3 in the top of the sixth. Gothenburg responded with a pair of runs to create the final difference.

Prall blasted a pair of triples. Hanna Wolf, Shelby Eggleston and Emily Franzen each had a pair of hits.

Jordyn Haake fanned 13 batters while picking up the win.

Great start, poor finish

Gothenburg needed to put together seven good innings of softball going against Class B Scottsbluff.

The Swedes only succeeded for four of the innings letting a 5-0 lead turn into an 8-5 loss.

“We got off to a great start and you could just feel the momentum shifted late,” Neujahr said. “We played good softball against a good team. They are 18-2 right now. They don’t give you any breaks. TheY are as good a defensive team as any Scottsbluff team in six years.”

Gothenburg erupted for five runs in the first inning scoring all of them with two outs. Amanda Barkmeier’s two-run double was the big hit of the inning.

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The five-run first frame by Gothenburg didn't shake the Bearcats. They scored a single run in the third and then used a five-hit rally to score five runs in the fifth.

Scottsbluff added a couple of insurance runs in the sixth, but the tourney host didn't need them. After the first inning, the Swedes threatened only in the fifth but came up empty.

Jordyn Haake hit three singles to pace the team. Barkmeier took the loss.

"We hit some pretty good shots," Neujahr said. "We just couldn't get that one hit that we were able to in the first inning."

Gering rallies to win

The Swedes let the lead slip away again in a 4-3 loss to Gering.

"We played solid softball," Neujahr said. "It was probably going to boil down to a one-run game and whoever got the last run to go ahead was probably going to win the game. Unfortunately,

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