

Swedes don't play nice at Kimball

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg flagged for 16 penalties.

KIMBALL—It wasn't like the Gothenburg boys were playing dirty.

Coaches have preached all fall that football is a physical game and players must play rough to be successful.

The Swedes were just doing what they were told when Gothenburg traveled three hours west to beat Kimball 35-14 Friday night.

But the yellow hankies came out 16 times against the Swedes for a total of 130 yards in penalties. Two touchdowns accounting for more than 50 yards each were called back.

"Several of those penalties were legitimate," coach Craig Haake said, "but some of them felt like it was the referees' way of saying we weren't playing nice. We were knocking them on the ground right and left and I think that surprised everyone, even the refs."

Regardless, the team has some cleaning up to do, the coach said.

"When we weren't hurting ourselves, things went pretty well," Haake said.

Kimball started the game with the ball but punted to Gothenburg after going three-and-out.

The Swedes marched from mid-field, scoring on a 2-yard run by Tyler Aden and a PAT kick from Trent Long.

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Gothenburg held Kimball to three-and-out again but this time the Longhorns got the punt to roll deeper into Swede territory.

On a mixed up sweep play in which the running back and full back both went the wrong direction, Swede quarterback Jackson Graham improvised.

He ended up pitching the ball to Tannor Mroczek, who ran untouched 70 yards for a touchdown.

A PAT by Long put Gothenburg ahead 14-0 in the first quarter.

"Kimball was running a funky defense that wasn't working," Haake said. "They didn't have anyone outside to tackle and we took advantage of that."

Gothenburg forced the Longhorns to punt again before the end of the first quarter and in the next Swede series, Logan Sheets broke loose for a 65-yard touchdown run that was called back on a motion penalty.

"It seems like that's when the flag fest began," Haake said. "It went from being a short, fast game to lasting all night long."

The Swedes stopped themselves several times on penalties in the second quarter. And after another long touchdown run was called back for holding, Gothenburg finally scored on a 20-yard interception return by Tanner Schwanz.

The PAT by Long gave the Swedes a 21-0 lead.

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Kimball managed to get on the scoreboard before halftime scoring on a pass play to make the score 21-7 at the break.

"I felt like we controlled the offensive and defensive lines the whole game," Haake said.

The Longhorns gave Gothenburg an onside kick to start the second half and the ball was recovered by Aaron Lauer,

A 57-yard drive ended with a fumble in the endzone that was recovered for the score by

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