

Gothenburg takes a win and loss against Class A/B teams

Written by Greg Viergutz

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Gothenburg closed out the regular season softball schedule with a split of games during the past week.

The Swedes lost to North Platte 11-2 on Sept. 28 before beating Grand Island Northwest 4-2 at home on Thursday.

Next up for Gothenburg (now 14-10) is the District C-6 tournament Thursday and Friday at St. Paul. The Swedes open the tournament against Minden (see info box for the tourney schedule).

Loss is double costly

North Platte feasted on Swede pitching in an 11-2 Bulldog victory.

In four innings of action, the hosts hammered out nine hits including a home run, a triple and a double.

“I knew we were getting a team that was hot,” Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. “A couple of coaches I’d talked to said their hitting has really been good lately.”

Gothenburg suffered more than just a defeat. Senior shortstop Roni Putnam was injured trying to tag a stealing runner when they collided. She missed the Grand Island Northwest game and her status for the remainder of the season is questionable.

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The Swedes scored a single run in the first inning. Putnam opened the game with a double to right field. She scored on a ground ball by Shelby Eggleston.

North Platte (15-11) also got off to a fast start matching Putnam's double and then adding a single and a home run for a 3-1 lead after one.

Three more singles produced a pair of runs for North Platte in the second inning.

Gothenburg cut the deficit by one with a solo tally in the top of the third. Putnam laced a double to left field to start the rally. She raced home on a single to right by Eggleston.

Karen Franzen followed with a double, but it wasn't enough to drive in Eggleston.

North Platte erupted for five runs in the bottom of the inning. Three hits and a couple of Swede errors contributed to the rally.

A triple and a sacrifice fly produced the final North Platte run in the fourth inning. The game ended when the Swedes couldn't cut into the margin.

Jordyn Haake opened on the mound and was relieved after one inning by Amanda Barkmeier.

Putnam's two doubles paced the Swede hitting attack.

Late scoring lifts Swedes

Although Gothenburg trailed much of the game, Neujahr never felt nervous about the outcome.

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“I just felt comfortable that we were always going to be able to score some runs for the win,” he said.

The Swedes tallied three runs in the fifth and sixth innings to earn the 4-2 win.

“We just kept putting pressure on and were hoping that we could break it loose,” Neujahr said, “and we did. We were happy with the way the kids came through.”

Northwest used three consecutive singles and a Swede error to score a pair of runs in the top of the first inning.

Gothenburg responded with a single run when KaTrina Winter and Shelby Eggleston hit back-to-back singles.

The Swedes went scoreless until tying the game in the fifth inning. Karen Franzen singled

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