

Two matches left in volleyball regular season

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swedes win one at Cozad Invite.

COZAD—A missed serve in rally scoring results in an easy point for the opposing volleyball team.

Missed serves, even just a few, can be the difference between a win and a loss for an average high school squad.

The Swedes put too many serves in the net or out of bounds Saturday during the Cozad Invite and managed only one win on the day.

“You can’t go back to serve hoping not to miss,” said Swede coach Becky Costello. “You have to serve with confidence, telling yourself it’s going to go in.”

Gothenburg played Perkins County point for point throughout the opening-round match at the tournament but the Swedes came up short 26-24, 25-22.

Missed serves, Costello said, make more of a difference than easy points for the other team.

“Not only do you give up a score when you miss a serve but you also break any momentum you had going,” she said. “We played pretty well against Perkins County, just not quite well enough.”

It was the third time the Swedes faced the Lady Plainsmen with the series going to Perkins County 2-1.

“We didn’t really want to play them again,” Costello said, “but that’s how the bracket came out. We feel like that was a game we should have won.”

Gothenburg faced Overton in the consolation semi-finals, beating the Eagles 25-20, 25-23.

“I felt like we played pretty well against Overton,” Costello said. “Then we came back with no emotion, no fire against Alma.”

The Swedes played the Cardinals for fifth and sixth place, falling 25-11, 25-22.

“Volleyball is such a mental game,” Costello said. “You’ve got to play with emotion and that’s something that comes from within.”

Again against Alma, the coach said the Swedes missed too many serves.

“We have good servers,” she said. “When we put the ball in play, a lot of times we can take the other team out of their game.”

It’s the lack of consistency, she said, that continues to haunt the Swedes.

No statistics were available for the three matches of the Cozad tournament.

With a 7-18 record, Gothenburg has only a triangular with Valentine and Ogallala at Valentine on Friday left before the C1-11 sub-district begins

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