

Gothenburg girls go the distance

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Swedes advance to C1-11 final with five-set victory over Eagles.

NORTH PLATTE—Thank goodness there's no time limit in volleyball, at least for the Gothenburg Swedes.

It took the girls a little longer than they hoped Monday night but Gothenburg came away from the C1-11 sub-district with a win and a spot in the finals.

The No. 3-seeded Swedes defeated No. 2 Southern Valley 16-25, 25-23, 15-25, 25-16, 15-11.

"I thought we warmed up well but we came out a little tight," said coach Becky Costello. "They played like they were afraid to make a mistake."

The Swedes fell behind 4-0 early in the first set and had to battle back. Gothenburg managed to tie the score at 9-9 but couldn't get the edge.

"We just weren't aggressive enough," Costello said.

In the second set, Costello encouraged her team to loosen up and the tide began to turn.

Although close throughout, the Swedes managed the win.

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“We did a better job serving,” Costello said, “and the girls weren’t as tight.”

But adjustments by Southern Valley in the third set caused Gothenburg problems.

Costello said because the Swedes’ blocks had been effective, Southern Valley hitters began tipping the ball over the net more in the third.

“It was working for them so they kept doing it,” the coach said. “We weren’t picking

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