

Adversities add up in sub-district final

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg girls fall to Hershey.

NORTH PLATTE—A bunch of little things added up to a bit too much for the Swede volleyball team to handle during the C1-11 sub-district final match against Hershey in North Platte on Nov. 2.

Playing five sets against Southern Valley in the first round the night before was physically hard on some Swede players, said coach Becky Costello.

“The girls gave it their all to beat Southern Valley and I think fatigue came into play for a lot of them,” Costello said.

Then there were a couple of players who weren’t feeling well, another who twisted her ankle early in the match and yet another who got hit in the face causing a bloody nose before she later took a blow to the head when she collided with a teammate.

“We had a lot of things working against us,” Costello said. “When you have to toss people into the lineup where they’re not used to playing, it causes problems.”

A mental block from being pounded by the Panthers earlier in the season may have come into play as well, she said, as Hershey dominated the match winning 25-14, 25-16, 25-19.

“We came out flat and it didn’t get a whole lot better from there,” Costello said.

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Hershey jumped on the Swedes early, pushing to an 11-4 lead and keeping Gothenburg out of rhythm the whole first set.

The Panthers controlled the second set as well, charging out to a 13-3 advantage.

Gothenburg closed the gap a bit and got within 22-16 before Hershey put the second set away with three straight points.

“We were a step behind the ball all night,” Costello said.

The final set was much closer as Gothenburg matched Hershey every couple of points, keeping the game within reach.

“We thought we might actually have pulled it all together in the third set,” Costello said, “but then we started not communicating well.”

Trailing 18-16, Costello said she knew the girls had the talent but they proved they just didn't have the stamina.

Senior Joslyn Oliver had five kills and a block to lead net play for Gothenburg.

McKenzie Geiken was 40-of-42 setting with nine assists while Ali Clark picked up

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