

All new, all around

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Coaches, players building boys basketball team from scratch.

Swede boys basketball coach Roger Koehler hopes building a team from scratch turns out as good as a batch of homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Everything is new this year, Koehler said, from the coaching staff to the playbook and the starting lineup.

“As long as everyone is buying into the new way of doing things, we’re going to be fine,” Koehler said.

Actually, Koehler is hoping for more than “fine” from the 28 boys on the roster despite bringing back only two letter winners and no starters from last year’s 7-12 team.

“What we really want to do is make a culture change,” the coach said. “We want Gothenburg boys basketball to be something people are proud of.”

That starts with work ethic, Koehler said, and continues with attitude on and off the court.

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The Swedes will have a little more height than past teams with an average over 6-feet.

“We’ve got a bit of size, which is nice,” Koehler said. “The good thing is those big guys can get up and down the floor.”

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

DEC. 3—HERSHEY, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4—at Lexington, 3-6 p.m.
DEC. 9—SOUTHERN VALLEY, 4-7 p.m.
Dec. 11—at Perkins County, 2-5 p.m. MT
Dec. 16—at North Platte St. Park, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
DEC. 17—HOLDREGE, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28-29—Holiday tournament at Boone Central, TBA
Jan. 7—at Sutherland, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
JAN. 8—CENTURA, 3-6 p.m.
Jan. 13—at Cozad, 4-7 p.m.
JAN. 14—CHASE COUNTY, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21—at Broken Bow, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
JAN. 22—KEARNEY CATHOLIC, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 25-26—CWC Tournament, TBA
Feb. 4—at Valentine, 4-7 p.m.
Feb. 5—at Midland, 3-6 p.m.
FEB. 11—AINSWORTH, 4-7 p.m.
Feb. 16—at Ogallala, 6-7:20 p.m. MT
Feb. 21-22, 24—C1-11 sub-districts at Lexington, TBA
Feb. 28—District finals, TBA
Mar. 10-12—State tournament at Lincoln, TBA

That means the Swedes are likely to play an up-tempo game whenever possible, the coach said.

“We’re going to look for a lot of breaks and take advantage of easy buckets,” he said.

In addition to a quick pace, the Swedes will focus heavily on rebounding.

“They’re getting better all the time at finding a body, boxing out and getting to the ball,” Koehler said.

The only two players with significant varsity experience are returning letter winners senior Jack Dudley and junior Korey Ahlenstorf.

“We’re going to rely heavily on those two,” Koehler said, along with senior Cody Ostergard and

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junior Brett Dockweiler. "We've got some people who are going to have to step into new roles and so far they've accepted those roles."

The Swede boys open the season at home Friday against a talented Hershey team and then travel

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