

Gothenburg girls still determining their roles

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Panthers down Swedes 60-33.

It can be a delicate process to fit the puzzle pieces of a basketball team neatly together.

When young talent also means inexperienced girls, it might take a little longer to define the roles of each player.

But Gothenburg girls basketball coach Tim Peterson is confident his team will fall together.

“We’re still finding our way and figuring out who is going to score for us,” Peterson said. “Getting kids to know their role and accept their role is just going to take a little more time.”

Inexperience coupled with first-game jitters caused the Swedes to fall behind early to the Hershey Panthers in the opening game of the season at home Friday night.

Hershey jumped out to a 20-8 lead after one quarter and cruised to a 60-33 victory.

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“We knew it was going to be a tough game to start with,” Peterson said. “But we also know we’re going to improve throughout the season.”

Gothenburg’s nemesis, especially in the first half, was scoring.

The Swedes put only 12 points on the board in the first two quarters.

“We struggled turning the ball over,” Peterson said, “but we still had ample opportunities to score, we just didn’t get the shots to fall.”

The Swedes were 9-of-52 on the night for a field goal average of 17.3%.

“That’s going to have to get better,” the coach said. “We want everyone to be able to score but every team needs one or two girls who can take on the role of the go-to girl who we know can score when we need a bucket.”

Gothenburg trailed Hershey 35-12 at halftime and was down 48-23 after three periods.

“There’s a point when the score is too far out of reach and you pretty much know you’re not going to win,” Peterson said. “That’s when we challenged the girls not to play by what the scoreboard said but to work to improve with every possession.”

It’s not fun to lose, the coach said, but girls only improve by

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