

Hershey gets past Swedes

Written by Deb Egenberger

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First game jitters out of the way.

Gothenburg boys coach Roger Koehler put five first-time starters on the court Friday night matching them against a group of seasoned Hershey players.

First-game jitters were apparent along with a few errors that come with inexperience but it wasn't the lop-sided game fans may have predicted.

"I think we gave Hershey a little more of a game than they were expecting," Koehler said. "I'm really proud of how hard the kids played."

But the Swedes had spurts when they struggled to score and Hershey walked away with a 53-41 victory.

"We've got to find a way to get the ball in the hole more," Koehler said. "And we'll work on eliminating the turnovers so we can get more shots."

The Swedes came out with high intensity and took a narrow first-quarter lead at 10-9.

"Those Hershey kids can shoot," Koehler said. "They missed a few long shots early but by the

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second quarter, they didn't miss many at all."

Koehler said the Panthers were 57% from three-point range making seven in the game.

Those long shots are how Hershey gained momentum and kept it in the second quarter.

Gothenburg went to the locker room at halftime trailing 29-23.

"Really, we just needed a little bit better execution and we needed to take care of the ball," Koehler said. "Those Hershey boys are quick on defense."

In the third quarter, Gothenburg did better at keeping Hershey in check. The Swedes trailed 36-31 heading into the final period.

"We never let up," Koehler said. "We just weren't getting as many

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