

Duster defense rattles Gothenburg's offense

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swede boys head into holiday 2-4.

The in-your-face style of defense that Holdrege brought to the basketball court Friday night shoved Gothenburg off kilter as the Dusters cruised to a 51-35 win.

“We knew they would be physical coming in,” said Swede coach Roger Koehler. “We had to work for every shot we got and every one of them was heavily contested.”

The first quarter was a defensive battle as neither team scored a field goal until Holdrege dropped a shot in with just over four minutes to play in the period.

Gothenburg finally got on the board with a free throw by Jack Dudley with 2:24 left in the first.

“Our offense had a hard time getting anything going,” Koehler said. “Their defense dictated everything we did and forced us to take some pretty tough shots.”

The Swedes trailed 9-3 at the end of the first quarter.

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Things slowly began to improve for Gothenburg midway through the second period but Koehler said they never got into their regular rhythm.

"Their defense took us out of our offense and we couldn't successfully run the patterns we like to run," the coach said.

The Swedes put up 15 points in the second quarter but trailed 28-18 at halftime.

The second half brought more physical play with plenty of fouling.

Junior Korey Ahlenstorf fouled out and three other Swedes finished with four fouls each.

"Holdrege is a good team," Koehler said. "They got us rattled a bit but we returned the favor much of the night."

The difference was, Koehler said, Holdrege got shots to fall despite the pressure.

The Dusters extended their lead to 41-27 at the end of three periods and coasted for the win.

"They out-scored us in every quarter," Koehler said, "but I think the game was much closer than the score indicates."

Junior Brett Dockweiler was 6-for-6 from the line with two three-pointers and a two-point bucket to lead Gothenburg with 14 points.

Logan Koehler chipped in eight points and seven rebounds while Jack Dudley

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