

Consolation slips from girls' grasp

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 03 February 2011 20:14 - Last Updated Thursday, 03 February 2011 20:17



Broken Bow takes third at SWC.

The Swede girls can feel no shame in losing their Southwest Conference semi-final basketball game to Minden on Thursday.

The Whippets are ranked No. 3 in Class C-1 by the Omaha World-Herald with only one loss on their record.

“Minden is a great team,” said Gothenburg coach Tim Peterson. “They’re as good as anybody I’ve coached against in a long time. They have no weaknesses.”

So Peterson didn’t walk away from the 76-22 loss at Minden wondering what his team could have done differently.

“We were out-manned. There’s really nothing more you can say.”

But when the Swedes allowed a first-half domination to flip-flop into a 38-33 loss to Broken Bow during the tournament consolation on Saturday in North Platte, Peterson came away scratching his head.

“In a nutshell, it’s just a disappointment,” he said. “This was a game of will and apparently

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Broken Bow had more of a will to win.”

Gothenburg held Broken Bow scoreless in the first period to gain a 7-0 lead, then pushed ahead 18-9 at halftime.

“We missed some easy bunny shots in the first half,” Peterson said. “We could have built even more of a lead.”

A few more early points might have helped the Swedes stave off an Indian comeback.

Broken Bow came out roaring in the second half, out-scoring the Swedes 17-7 in the third quarter.

After easily breaking the Indians' full-court press in the first half, Gothenburg crumbled under Broken Bow's trap defense in the second half.

“Every press breaker is designed to get the ball to the middle,” Peterson said. “We didn't do that at all in the second half. By this time in the season, that should just be second nature.”

As the struggle to cross half-court heightened, frustration set in and mistakes mounted.

“When adversity strikes or when tired sets in, you've got to stick to

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SWC TOURNEY	
First Round	
Gothenburg 49	Dgallala 43
Broken Bow 52	Alpenworth 38
Cozad 56	Valentine 31
Semi-Finals	
Minden 78	Gothenburg 22
Cozad 44	Broken Bow 27
Consolation	
Broken Bow 38	Gothenburg 33
Championship	
Minden 63	Cozad 33