

Boys beat Cozad to advance

Written by Deb Egenberger
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COZAD—Gothenburg's boys got exactly what they were expecting from Cozad in the opening round of the C1-11 sub-district Monday night—a dog fight to the end.

The winless Haymakers started out on fire and led the entire first half but then lost power in the fourth period.

Gothenburg out-scored Cozad 14-1 in the final frame to win 45-30 and advance to the semi-finals.

“I leaned over to the other coaches toward the end of the first quarter and said, ‘We’re in for a full game,’” Gothenburg coach Roger Koehler said.

He was right.

Cozad senior Jed Paulsen had eight of his game-high 16 points in the first quarter to spark the Haymakers.

At the same time, Gothenburg's offense struggled.

“We did not have good shot selection in the first quarter,” Koehler said. “We’d come down, make one pass and throw something up instead of working the offense.”

Cozad led 10-9 at the end of the first quarter and continued rolling in the second period.

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“We weren’t playing smart in the first half,” Koehler said. “It seemed like we were forcing things, instead of just letting them happen. The second half we were much more relaxed.”

The Swedes also made an adjustment on defense.

When post player Korey Ahlenstorf moved inside for more of a physical presence under the basket, that left 6-foot-6 Logan Koehler to guard Paulsen.

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