

Shots don't fall for Swede boys

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Season ends against Hershey in sub-district semi-final.

LEXINGTON—The Swede boys knew going into last week's C1-11 sub-district semi-final game against Hershey that defense would be the key to an upset.

Gothenburg held the No. 9 state-ranked Panthers well under their season scoring average of 57 points.

"We knew we had to stop them from getting fast break points and we knew we had to defend their pick-and-roll offense," said Gothenburg coach Roger Koehler. "I think we did both of those things pretty well."

But while the Swede defense held back Hershey, the offense struggled as the Swedes shot just 21% from the field and stepped up to the free throw line only twice the whole game.

Hershey handed Gothenburg a 43-29 loss to end the Swedes season.

"It's pretty simple. We couldn't hit a shot," Koehler said. "Early in the game we weren't working our offense. We do much better when we work the ball inside and then kick it back out."

Gothenburg made 12-of-56 shots from the field. Koehler said some of the 44 misses might be attributed to nerves. Others were likely forced by Hershey's solid defensive pressure.

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"I kept trying to emphasize a focus on the rim," Koehler said. "The shots we normally make just wouldn't fall."

Hershey cruised out to a 12-6 lead in the first quarter and went into halftime with a nine-point 21-12 advantage.

"It wasn't that we were turning the ball over," Koehler said. "That's something we battled all year and that wasn't the case that night."

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