Gothenburg defeats Axtell.

It looked like Gothenburg might give Minden a run for its money last week in a volleyball triangular on the Swede home court.

With daunting net play and a stingy defense, the Swedes had Minden on the ropes in the first set of their game on Sept. 22.

Tied at 9-9, the Swede matched the Whippets play for play.

“Then suddenly it was like the lights shut off,” said Gothenburg coach Mary Clark. “We stopped playing aggressively and things fell apart.”

Minden took the match 25-16, 25-8.

When the Whippet began getting big blocks against the Swede hitters, everyone backed off, Clark said.

“I think it kind of took the wind out of our sales,” the coach said, “and we never recovered.”

Even senior hitter Emily Max, who has dominated the net for the Swedes all season, struggled getting the ball to fall.

She finished hitting 15-of-16 with three kills and two blocks.

“I have to give the girls the credit,” Clark said. “They pulled it back together for the next game and stayed aggressive the whole match.”

The Swedes took their second game of the triangular against Axtell 25-22, 25-23.

“Axtell has a good team,” Clark said. “We had to fight for just about every point.”

The difference, she said, was a strong focus during every play.

“We played our game,” Clark said. “We attacked the ball and did the things we were supposed to do.”

Max finished with 18 kills in the second game with seven blocks and 10 digs.

Setter Kira Peterson offered 14 set assists while libero Ali Clark dug up 13 balls.

Minden won the triangular by defeating Axtell 25-22, 25-16.

MINDEN over GOTHENBURG—25-16, 25-8

	SERVES			HITS		SETS		RECEIVE		
	At	A	Pts.	M-A	K	M-A	As	M-A	Digs	Bl
Ali Clark	1-2	0	1	0-0	0	0-0	0	2-3	7	0
McKenzie Geiken	3-4	1	1	0-1	0	17-19	3	4-8	2	0
Emily Max	3-4	1	2	15-16	3	0-0	0	9-12	8	2
Abby Ambler	2-3	0	0	0-0	0	4-4	1	4-7	6	0
Janae Wiggins	0-0	0	0	4-7	1	3-3	3	2-2	0	1
Jacey Wiggins	0-0	0	0	4-7	1	3-3	3	2-2	0	1
Michelle Jack	0-0	0	0	1-1	1	0-0	0	0-0	0	1
Erica Houchin	2-2	0	1	0-0	0	2-2	0	0-1	0	0
Kira Peterson	1-2	0	0	0-0	0	16-17	1	2-7	1	0
Kristi Block	0-0	0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0	1-2	0	0
Abie Jensen	0-0	0	0	8-9	2	1-1	0	0-0	3	2
TOTALS	12-17	2	5	32-41	8	46-49	11	26-44	27	7

GOTHENBURG over AXTELL—25-22, 25-23

	SERVES			HITS		SETS		RECE	
	At	A	Pts.	M-A	K	M-A	As	M-A	Dig
Ali Clark	3-4	0	2	0-0	0	0-0	0	9-11	13
McKenzie Geiken	3-3	1	1	2-3	0	18-22	8	1-2	5
Emily Max	1-4	0	4	29-31	18	0-0	0	17-19	10
Abby Ambler	9-10	0	7	4-7	0	0-0	0	4-5	5
Janae Wiggins	2-3	0	1	2-3	0	0-0	0	2-2	0
Jacey Wiggins	2-3	0	1	12-16	7	9-11	2	0-0	0
Michelle Jack	0-1	0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0
Erica Houchin	6-9	1	6	0-0	0	3-4	2	0-0	1
Kira Peterson	1-2	0	0	0-0	0	29-31	14	1-2	2
Maddy Costello	8-10	1	5	0-0	0	0-0	0	0-1	4
Abie Jensen	0-0	0	0	9-11	2	1-1	0	0-0	1
TOTALS	35-49	3	27	58-71	27	60-69	26	34-42	41