

## Volleyball season ends with sub-district loss

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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### Swedes fall to Minden in first round.

LEXINGTON—When Nebraska high school volleyball switched to rally scoring in 2004, teams began to realize the ultimate importance of making serves.

When every serve brings a point for one team or the other, getting the ball over the net is vital.

Gothenburg's C1-11 sub-district loss to Minden Monday night drives home that point.

“Serving and passing are everything in rally scoring,” said Swede coach Mary Clark. “You can’t give up five, 10 or 15 points on missed serves to a good team like Minden.”

Gothenburg played point for point with the Whippets in the first set until midway through when five Swedes missed five consecutive serves.

Those easy points offered to Minden helped the Whippets build momentum for a 25-19, 25-13, 25-19 victory.

“Win or lose, I wanted them to play a great game,” Clark said of her Swede team. “They are a much better team than what we saw Monday night.”

Struggles with serving continued for the Swedes into the second set.

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“Our serving wasn’t there and the girls were getting frustrated,” Clark said. “We started playing tentative and that’s not our game. Our game is aggressive all the way.”

Minden jumped on the Swedes early in the third set, taking a 3-0 lead before Gothenburg got on the board.

Then the Swedes battled back.

“One thing about it,” Clark said, “these girls never quit. They just kept fighting and trying and they never gave up.”

Ending the year with a 12-15 record isn’t the downer that comes with losing the last game.

“We’ve played some really good games this year,” Clark said. “This time, it just wasn’t our night.”

Individual statistics were not available.

Cozad defeated Southern Valley 22-25, 17-25, 25-22, 25-15, 17-15 in the first game of the sub-district to meet top-seeded Kearney Catholic in the semi-final.

The Stars beat Cozad 25-10, 25-12, 27-25 and met Minden in the sub-district final Tuesday night.