Softball team falls to GI reserves at Lexington

Sports seasons often include a series of highs and lows. It didn't take long for the Gothenburg softball team to come down from the high of beating Cozad Thursday night.

The Swedes lost in the opening round of the Lexington Invitational Saturday to the Grand Island JV squad. A pair of lackluster wins that followed didn't offer much consolation.

"We were flat," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. "As a coaching staff we take responsibility for that. I'm not sure what it was."

Perhaps overconfidence after beating Cozad was a factor.

"Usually when you start feeling pretty good and start sticking your chest out, somebody is going to knock you down and we got knocked down," Neujahr said. "We will certainly try to avoid that situation again."

"The only fortunate thing is the NSAA doesn't count that game because it was a replacement game and it was a jayvee team," the coach said. "It doesn't count for anyone that played them in the tournament point-wise and record-wise.

"We're counting it as a loss and we should."

The uninspired play continued in wins over Chadron and Southern Valley.

The Grand Island JVs ended up winning the tournament. They beat Adams Central in the

second round and Lexington in the championship.

Gothenburg hosts Lexington Thursday and travels to the McCook Invitational Saturday where the Swedes will open against Alliance. The winner and loser will be matched up against counterparts from the Cozad-North Platte first-round game. Other first-round games are McCook-Chadron and Holdrege-Gering.

GI reserves prevail 10-4

Grand Island used a pair of three-run innings to break a 4-4 tie after three frames.

The Islanders had six of their 14 game hits in the three-run fourth. A pair of doubles powered the way. Another double, two walks and a hit batter aided the three-run rally in the fifth.

Gothenburg actually stayed close early. Emily Franzen's home run in the bottom of the first inning knotted the score at 1-1. Grand Island scored an unanswered run in the second.

Four GI singles pushed across a couple of more runs in the third.

This time, the Swedes responded with three runs led by an RBI double by Brittyn Munster.

That was pretty much it for Gothenburg. No Swede baserunner made it past second base the rest of the way.

Amanda Barkmeier started on the mound for Gothenburg and couldn't match her Thursday night effort against Cozad. The Islanders roughed her up with 13 hits in four innings of action.

Becca Riley, with a double, joined Franzen and Munster as extra-base hitters.

Chadron game ends early

A two-run double by Becca Riley ended the game against Chadron when the Swedes gained a 10-0 lead.

Seven walks aided an eight-hit attack for Gothenburg.

The Swedes jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning. Ashley Eskew hit a two-run single.

Despite getting a pair of hits in each of the next two innings, Gothenburg scored just a single run to lead 5-0 going into the fourth.

Eight batters went to the plate and five scored to bring the game to a close.

Riley had the lone extra-base hit for Gothenburg.

“That Chadron game did nothing for us,” the Swede coach said. “Their pitching was poor. Their defense was poor. We didn’t hit the ball real hard.”

Southern Valley falls 7-2

Gothenburg had little trouble with Southern Valley.

Early runs led to a 7-2 victory.

The Swedes were on top 5-0 after two innings. An error and several walks and a hit batter led to two runs in the first frame. Three singles helped Gothenburg push across three more runs in the second.

Back-to-back singles scored a solo run for the Swedes in the fourth.

They added just one run in the sixth, despite getting three consecutive singles. The one-out rally quickly fizzed with the bases loaded after an infield pop fly and a strikeout.

Barkmeier went the distance tossing a no-hitter while striking out three batters.

Siera Schwanz, Emily Franzen and Brittyn Munster each had a pair of singles.