St. Pat's beats Gothenburg in four

NORTH PLATTE—Every player has an off night once in awhile. It just happens.

But it's unusual, said Swede volleyball coach Mary Clark, when it happens to an entire team, even if it's just for one set.

The Gothenburg volleyball team stuck with unbeaten North Platte St. Pat's for three sets but fell out of rhythm in the fourth, losing to the Irish 26-24, 21-25, 25-20, 25-16.

"I don't know what it was," Clark said. "I really wish I could put my finger on it."

Mostly Clark would like to find that switch that flipped on her team so she can possibly prevent it from happening again.

"We really did play well for three sets," she said. "We just couldn't make it happen in the fourth."

Gothenburg started the match down by as many as nine points in the first set but they managed to fight back and challenge the Irish.

Then in the second, the Swedes matched St. Pat's point for point before finally taking control.

"The thing that I like about this group of girls is they are willing to be aggressive even when a set is on the line," Clark said. "They never got tentative, even when things weren't going our way."

Gothenburg continued to push the Irish in the third set but couldn't get an advantage.

Then things really fell apart in the fourth game.

"St. Pat's picked up more digs than we did and they served better than we did in that last set," Clark said. "We missed more serves in that game than we have all year and that makes such a huge difference against a team like St. Pat's."

Sophomore Tiani Reeves finished the night with 13 kills and five blocks, including one stuff.

Senior Jacey Wiggins offered 17 set assists while junior Aryn Meisinger had 13 assists and 20 digs.

Gothenburg moves to 5-2 on the season while St. Pat's improves to 10-0.

Things don't get any easier for the 5-2 Swedes in the weeks to come as they hit a busy part of their season.

Gothenburg travels to Hershey Saturday for a four-team invite that includes the Panthers (4-4), Bridgeport (4-7) and Ains-worth (2-11).

"Bridgeport is always tough and Hershey has a way of pulling things together when they need to," Clark said. "It will be a good test."

Then the Swedes travel to Grant for a triangular with Perkins County and Chase County Tuesday before returning home for their own invite on Sept. 29.