

Third inning costly in loss to N. Platte

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 05 October 2012 19:10 -

One inning can make a huge difference in a softball game—for better or worse.

For the Gothenburg softball team, it turned out to be worse in an 8-5 loss at North Platte Sept. 25.

North Platte was held to just two runs over five innings. However, sandwiched in there was a six-run rally in the third frame.

Swede coach Roger Neujahr offers his team many quotes during the season to reinforce his points.

“One of them says the team that wins usually scores more runs in one inning than the losing team does in the whole game,” he said. “That held true.”

Back-to-back doubles gave North Platte a 1-0 lead after one inning.

Gothenburg sent eight batters to the plate but scored just two runs in the second in a one-out rally. RBI singles came from Katlin Harm and Ashley Eskew, but the bases were loaded when consecutive strikeouts ended the opportunity.

The Bulldogs' bats got active again in a third inning when two doubles and four singles producing six runs.

The Swedes pushed single runs across the plate in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings but fell short. Two runners were left in scoring position in the sixth and a promising rally in the seventh ended with a double play.

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“Our goal is to score four runs and to give up three,” Neujahr said. “We hit our offensive goal, but not our defensive one.”

The bottom of the order kept giving the Swedes possibilities with nine hits in 18 at bats while the top of the order struggled going 0-for-12.

Kyndal Holmes had a double and single with two runs batted in.

“The one thing that was so positive in that game was our enthusiasm and our fire,” the Swede coach said. “It was as good as it has been all year.”