

Sting of missed opportunities lingers

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Successful Gothenburg softball season still falls short of Swede team's hopes

Tom Osborne wrote in one of his books that you practice to win them all.

“We tried to do that and we didn’t win them all,” Swede softball coach Roger Neujahr said about the 2012 campaign.

“As you approach any season, and particularly with the kids that we have, you shoot for the state championship. When you don’t win the state championship, it’s a downer.”

The sting remains of not winning a game at the state tournament, the coach said.

“That’s probably what hurts and sticks in the mind of the players and the coaching staff,” he said.

Gothenburg held a 1-0 lead after five innings in the state tourney opener against eventual champion Arlington, but couldn’t hold on for the win.

The Swedes let several scoring opportunities slip through their hands in an elimination game against Milford. The Eagles came up with some defensive stops to send the Swedes home on the first day of competition.

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RECORDS

(Old record in parentheses)
Amada Barkmeier—Career: wins, 59 (64, Bre Messersmith, 2006-09); strikeouts, 400 (242, Messersmith, 2006-09); shutouts, 18 (2, Messersmith, and Jordyn Hauck, 2008-10; no hitters (4 inn. minimum), 2 (1, Chelisa Miller, 2007, and Erin Schwanz, 2007); innings pitched, 1,069 (974); Messersmith, Season: wins, 29 (0, Barkmeier, 2011); strikeouts, 141 (137, Barkmeier, 2011); shutouts, 8 (2, Messersmith, 2006, and Jordyn Hauck, 2010)
Kyndal Holmes—Season: batting average, .500 (.478, Bre Messersmith, 2006)
Brittly Munster—Season: runs scored, 30 (27, Shay Wear, 2011)
Siena Schwanz—Season: walks, 24 (18, Rani Putnam, 2010)

Shay Wear—Career: stolen bases, 68 (2009-12) (27, Ka Tina Winter, 2007-10; Season: stolen bases, 36) (30, Wear and Hanna Wolf, 2011); Game: stolen bases, 4 (3 by five others)
Emily Frazier—Career: home runs (66), 3 (3, Shabby Eggleston, 2007-10)
Team—Season: state Class C record for scoring average per game, 8.5; runs, most wins (6), 25 (25, 2011); most runs scored, 203 (248, 2011); highest batting average, .363 (.354, 2008); runs scored per game, 7.97 (7.75, 2011); stolen bases, 141 (42, 2011); Game: stolen bases, 12 vs. Southern Valley (11 vs. Chase County, 11 inn., 2008); RBIs, 14 vs. Alliance (13 vs. McCook, 2011); runs in an inning, 13 vs. Alliance (11, four games)

