Gothenburg falls to Ogallala in C1-11

NORTH PLATTE—The girls wanted it all.

The coaches wanted it all.

The fans wanted it all.

With the best-ever season of Gothenburg volleyball already achieved, the Swede girls aimed for more.

“When we look back on our journey, and it has been a journey, we have come so far,” said coach Mary Clark. “It’s just that we wanted so badly to go farther.”

The Swedes ended their season with a 23-7 record, the best in school history, after falling to Ogallala in the C1-11 sub-district final at North Platte on Oct. 30.

“There’s no doubt they gave it all they had,” Clark said.

The Swedes got into the finals after defeating Chase County in the opening round 25-18, 20-25, 25-22, 21-25 and 16-14.

“We were pretty much forced to fight for every single point,” Clark said.

The Swedes started out in a hole, allowing the Longhorns a 6-0 lead in the first set before working their way back to a set win.

“Chase County was a very scrappy team,” Clark said. “They did a good job of picking up what we gave them.”

Gothenburg allowed Chase County a 6-0 lead again in the fourth set, struggling to find a rhythm.

Even in the final frame, the Swedes went point for point with the Longhorns.

“We missed a lot of serves,” Clark said. “At one point, we missed three in a row and you just can’t do that.”

Gothenburg had hoped to conserve energy by beating Chase County in three sets.

As it was, with 16 total missed serves Clark said the Swedes were lucky to come out with a win.

Sophomore Tiani Reeves finished with 18 kills and eight blocks, including three stuffs.

Senior Jacey Wiggins had 17 kills and junior Regan Geiken finished with 12.

Junior Aryn Meisinger offered 28 set assists and picked up 22 digs.

Clark said after five close sets with Chase County, fatigue was an issue against top-seeded Ogallala in the final match.

The Swedes didn't find much of a rhythm until the second set and even then struggled with serve receive.

"Ogallala has aggressive serves," Clark said. "We didn't do a good job of passing so the rest of our game didn't fall together."

The Indians took the sub-district championship with a 25-13, 27-25, 25-15 victory.

"I think if we just could have gotten that second set we might have built some momentum," the coach said.

Reeves led the way at the net again with nine kills and five blocks, including one stuff.

"I'm just so proud of these girls," Clark said. "They pulled together as a team and they had a

great attitude all season. What they learned together they can take and apply to every area of their lives. It’s been a very special year.”