Swede girls return depth and desire

Many of the faces will be familiar with nine returning letter winners for the Swede girls basketball team.

Gothenburg's scoring leader, top rebounder, most unselfish player and scrappiest defender are back from last year's 7-15 team, along with five other success-hungry and experienced players.

It's a mix first-year coach Chris Lecher really likes.

"We've got an athletic team of girls who have a combination of strengths," Lecher said. "We can pretty much mix and match the top 12."

But the players and their strength areas are about all that will look the same this winter when the Swede girls take the court.

The new coach brings with him a new system.

"We'll be running all new stuff," he said. "Most of it we were able to work out over the summer."

In his fourth year of teaching science at Gothenburg High School, Lecher was previously an assistant coach for the boys basketball team.

While he has adapted some boys' plays for the 2012-13 girls team, the overall design is tailor-made for this team.

The four seniors—Brittyn Munster, Jacey Wiggins, Hanna Wolf and Taylor Wolf—will be counted on heavily to lead the Swedes.

"I've told them the team is going to go as they go," the coach said. "I think they've embraced that."

Lecher said the girls have a want-to-win attitude and he wants to help translate that into victories.

The Swedes, he said, carry in plenty of success from summer camps and fall sports and they'll tackle tough opponents head-on, beginning with Lexington on Thursday.

"We have a tough schedule," Lecher said. "Through Christmas, it's very tough. I'm not saying we couldn't win every one of those games. I'm just saying nothing will come easy."

The conference and district won't be cake-walks either. Lecher expects Minden to be the Southwest Conference favorite and Chase County, Cozad and Ogallala should be solid C1-11 sub-district challengers.

""The biggest obstacle we have to get over is the mental aspect of our opponents," Lecher said.

Gothenburg opens at Lexington on Thursday and then hosts Hershey Friday night with tipoff set for 6 p.m..

Members of the 2012-13 Goth-enburg girls basketball team are (*denotes letter winner):

SENIORS— Brittyn Munster*, Jacey Wiggins*, Taylor Wolf*, Hanna Wolf*.

JUNIORS—Megan Allard, Rebecca Anderson*, Emily Franzen*, Regan Geiken*, Kyndal Holmes, Aryn Meisinger*, Taylor Mroczek, Bailey Rickertsen.

SOPHOMORES— Bailey Baxter, MaKaela Franzen*, McKinley Harm, Amanda Kowalewski, Nikita Peklo.

FRESHMEN—Sarah Brown, Blaire Gibbens, Sydney Gruber, Katlin Harm, Emily Keiser, Keely Lecher, Mady Vogel, Kim Whiting.

GHS VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Nov. 29—at Lexington, 4:15-5:30 p.m.
Nov. 30—HERSHEY, 3-6 p.m.
Dec. 6—SOUTHERN VALLEY, 4-5:30 p.m.
Dec. 8—at Perkins County, 1:30-3 p.m. MT
Dec. 13—at North Platte St. Pat's, 4:30-6 p.m.
Dec. 14—HOLDREGE, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18—McCOOK, 5-6:30 p.m.
Dec. 27-29—Cabela's Holiday Shootout at Sidney
Jan. 4—at Sutherland, 4:30-6 p.m.
Jan. 5—CENTURA, 3-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 8—ARAPAHOE, 4-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10—at Cozad, 4-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11—CHASE CO., 4:30-6 p.m.
Jan. 18—at Broken Bow, 4:30-6 p.m.
Jan. 21-26—SWC Tournament
Feb. 1—VALENTINE, 4-5:30 p.m.
Feb. 2—at Minden, 3-4:30 p.m.
Feb. 5—OGALLALA, 5-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 8—AINSWORTH, 4-5:30 p.m.
Feb. 12, 14—C1-11 sub-district at Lexington, TBA
Feb. 22—District finals, TBA
Feb. 28, Mar. 1-2—State tournament at Lincoln, TBA