

Boys struggle early in overtime loss

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 07 December 2012 14:15 -

LEXINGTON—Had the Gothenburg boys been able to find a little bit of a rhythm early in the opening game of the season Thursday night at Lexington, there may have been a different outcome.

As it was, though, the Swedes struggled to score in the first half, putting up only 15 points in the two quarters. Lexington forced an extra period and got the final shot for a 40-38 victory.

“We had a lot of first game mistakes,” said Gothenburg coach Roger Koehler. “We have several kids who have never started a varsity game, who had not been in this kind of tight situation.”

Lack of experience showed, the coach said, in costly mistakes.

The Minutemen took advantage of Gothenburg’s jitters, shooting out to a 14-9 lead at the end of the first period.

Lexington kept the pressure on by packing the paint and offering solid help-side defense as the Minutemen managed a 25-15 lead at halftime.

“We dug ourselves a hole,” Koehler said. “We couldn’t hit the shots early that finally started falling later in the game.”

Gothenburg stepped up the defense in the third period, holding Lexington to only two points and closing the gap for a 25-25 tie heading into the final stanza.

Neither team found much success in the fourth, finishing regulation with another tie at 32-32.

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The Swedes hit a couple of quick buckets to begin the overtime period and then followed with three consecutive turnovers.

“We just had kids out of position,” Koehler said. “All of a sudden it was a panic situation and I think we let that one slip away.”

Sophomore Tanner Borchardt had a solid game with 14 points and 12 rebounds to lead Gothenburg.

Logan Koehler finished with seven assists.