

Girls finish strong against Perkins Co.

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 13 December 2012 14:42 - Last Updated Thursday, 13 December 2012 14:54

GRANT—Gothenburg's girls went back and forth with Perkins County Saturday afternoon trading buckets throughout the game until a stingy press in the fourth quarter gave the Swedes the edge they needed.

Gothenburg trailed by one heading into the final frame but when Swede coach Chris Lecher called for tight pressure, the girls forced a series of Perkins County turnovers that were converted into a 10-point advantage.

The Swedes finished with a 46-37 victory.

"We struggled a little bit early getting scores when we had the open shots," Lecher said. "Perkins County's big girl caused us a little trouble. She affected some of what we wanted to do."

After a slow start for both teams, Gothenburg trailed 6-5 at the end of the first quarter but had an 18-16 lead at halftime.

"They ran a zone against us and we hadn't seen that defense yet," the coach said. "It took the girls a little bit to figure it out."

Lecher would have liked to have pulled away from the Lady Plainsmen long before the fourth quarter but he said the girls' persistence still paid off with a win.

Senior Brittyn Munster led Gothenburg with 17 points while junior Regan Geiken added 14 points.

"Those two have become our consistent scorers," Lecher said. "Now we just need to get a few consistent points from some others."

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The Swedes move to 2-2 on the season as they prepare for a pair of state-ranked teams this week.

Gothenburg travels to North Platte on Thursday to face Class C-2's No. 3-rated St. Pat's and then hosts Class B's No. 10 Holdrege on Friday.

"They're a couple of tough teams who will be very different in what they do defensively," Lecher said. "As the girls continue to gain confidence, hopefully they will not be intimidated by our opponents."

Tipoff for Friday's home game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. as the girls varsity game will follow the boys.