

Gothenburg girls get in win column

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Swedes defeat Southern Valley

The wins didn't come easy for the Gothenburg girls last week.

But then, it seems nothing is going to be easy, said Swede coach Chris Lecher.

"We are slowly putting the pieces together," the first-year coach said. "Even though they've been playing together for awhile, it's still all very new."

Gothenburg jumped out to an early lead against Southern Valley on Thursday night, pushing ahead 7-0 before the Eagles got on the board with a free throw at the three-minute mark of the first quarter.

"We had a plan against Southern Valley and it worked," Lecher said.

The Swedes wanted to buckle down with fundamental and physical defense.

"Most of the time we were able to take them out of what they want to do," Lecher said of Southern Valley.

Gothenburg kept the clamp down on the Eagles until Emily Becker broke loose for a pair of three-pointers followed by a two-point goal to close the gap to 12-11 at the end of the first period.

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Neither team hit a field goal again until midway through the second period when Taylor Wolf sank back-to-back paint shots.

The Swedes led 23-15 at halftime.

“I think the girls are starting to see what they can do if they take care of the ball,” Lecher said.

Junior forward Regan Geiken really went to work in the second half, scoring 13 of her game-high 22 points in the third and fourth quarters.

“I’d like to see Regan have that kind of game every night,” Lecher said. “She can be the kind of force the other team is going to have to deal with and that could open up some other opportunities.”

The Swedes kept a tight handle on Southern Valley through the second half as well, allowing Eagle team leader only three points in the second half.

Geiken had five rebounds, a steal and an assist to go with her 22 points. Wolf added nine points.

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