

Gothenburg boys drop to 1-4 after loss to Holdrege

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Had it not been for the second quarter Friday night, the Swedes may have pulled out a victory over rough and tumble Holdrege.

As it was, though, a six-minute drought in the second period along with eight turnovers and five shooting fouls left the Gothenburg boys with a hole too deep to escape. The Dusters came away with their first win of the season, 56-48.

“We knew going in that Holdrege would put a lot of pressure on us,” said Swede coach Roger Koehler. “It’s kind of like the big brother in Class B pushing around the little brother. Holdrege likes it to be a physical game and they made it that way.”

Gothenburg gained the 16-10 edge in the first quarter behind 10 points, many in transition, from senior post player Logan Koehler.

Then the season’s recurring dry spell hit Gothenburg at the beginning of the second period.

The Dusters chipped away at the lead until taking an 18-16 advantage midway through the period.

Gothenburg finally got on the board when Logan Koehler threw down a dunk with 2:05 left to play in the half.

Tanner Borchardt dropped in another bucket on the next Swede possession but Holdrege closed out the half with a 29-20 lead.

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“We missed some shots we don’t normally miss,” the coach said. “And the physicalness of the game became frustrating. That’s not the style we’re used to playing.”

Still, Koehler said, the players have to adjust and play.



Gothenburg managed a few more points in the third period but still trailed 41-29 heading into the final stanza.

“Holdrege hit some timely threes and we weren’t able to get anything from the outside,” the coach said.

Gothenburg closed the gap to single digits several times early in the fourth quarter before the Dusters pulled away at the line in the final two minutes of play.

Holdrege was 13-of-21 from the line in the fourth period and 21-of-34 overall.

Logan Koehler led the Swedes with 19 points. Borchardt offered nine points and 11 rebounds.

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Holdrege had three players in double figures, led by Luke Ackerman with 14 points.

Gothenburg drops to 1-4 with the loss.

“We can’t have those kinds of dry spells,” the coach said. “We’re close. We’ve been right there in every game except St. Pat’s. There’s something that’s keeping us from getting over the hump and we’re going to have to figure out what that is.”

Koehler said his team will work on fundamental basketball before the Swedes head to Sidney to play in the Cabela’s Holiday Shootout beginning Dec. 27.

The Swedes will face Sidney (4-2) in the opening round of the tournament with a start time set for 7:15 p.m. MT

Win or lose, their second-round game will be at 7:15 p.m. MT on Dec. 28 with the championship game set for 3:15 p.m. MT on Dec. 29.