

Girls struggle in first half against Class B's No. 10 rated Holdrege

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Swede girls basketball coach Chris Lecher expected full-court, in-your-face pressure from a Holdrege team that received pre-season notice in the Class B state rankings.

What he didn't expect was his team to hit the floor with a deer-in-the-headlights look.

"We've tried to work on that mental confidence," Lecher said. "You just can't spot a team like that 18 points and expect to get anywhere with them."

The Dusters cruised out to a 22-4 first quarter advantage and remained unbeaten on the season with a 59-36 victory.

"The girls play hard and the effort is there," Lecher said. "They're realizing they can deal with the pressure. Now we have to learn to capitalize on it."

After Holdrege sank a pair of three-pointers to start the game, Gothenburg scored on a couple of free throws by Brittyn Munster at the 6:34 mark in the first quarter.

The Swedes didn't get on the board again until Munster dropped a bucket at the buzzer.

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The girls championship is set for 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 29.