

Swede girls fall in final seconds of Sidney tourney consolation

Written by Deb Egenberger

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SIDNEY—Gothenburg's girls led Gering all but 11 seconds of the consolation finals at the Cabela's Holiday Shootout in Sidney on Dec. 30.

Unfortunately for the Swedes, those 11 seconds were the final ticks off the game clock.

Gering hit a pair of free throws with 11 seconds to play to win the tournament's fifth-place game 41-39.

"We were ahead six to 10 points through most of the game," said Swede coach Chris Lecher. "Then we started getting a little draggy in the fourth quarter and made some poor decisions."

Gering played a helter-skelter type of offense that kept the Swede girls scrambling, the coach said.

Gothenburg started strong with an 11-3 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Then the Swedes struggled to score in the second period, putting only three points on the board, but the girls maintained a 14-10 advantage at halftime.

Gering outscored Gothenburg 31-25 in the second half, including a strong defensive stand in the fourth quarter where the Bulldogs held the Swedes to eight points.

Gering tied the game at 39-39 with 1:20 left to play when a foul by Brittyn Munster sent Gering's Megan Upp to the line for the deciding free throws.

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Lecher said the Swedes had 11 seconds to get a shot off and did but missed and got pushed too far under the basket on the rebound to get another chance.

Regan Geiken finished with 11 points to lead Gothenburg while Munster had nine and Jacey Wiggins added eight.

The Swede girls made it to the consolation finals after easily defeating Love Christian Fellowship of Denver 79-14 in the consolation semi-finals.

Lecher said the Swedes had little challenge from the opponent that suited only eight girls, two of which were eighth-graders.

Taylor Wolf scored 16 points to lead Gothenburg while Emily Franzen put in 14 with nine rebounds.