

Girls keep accelerator down on Valentine

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg's girls allowed Valentine little breathing room the whole game on Friday, keeping defensive intensity high through all four quarters.

It's a strategy Swede basketball coach Chris Lecher has been pushing from the first day of the season.

"We stressed that we really wanted to go after them and keep them on their heels," Lecher said of the Badgers.

It worked.

The Swede girls downed the Badgers 49-26, extending their winning streak to nine games.

After a 2-2 start with the first couple possessions, the Swedes burst ahead with a 12-0 run in the first quarter, ending the period with a 16-6 advantage.

Gothenburg junior Regan Geiken had 10 of her game-high 14 points in the first quarter to lead the way.

The Swedes continued their surge through the second period to build a comfortable 28-14 lead at halftime.

"The girls did a nice job of playing aggressive defense and not giving up cheap stuff," Lecher

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said. "We've figured out a consistent rotation with the same seven or so girls that helps us keep people fresh. That helps."

While Gothenburg has suffered a let down in the third quarter of some games, that wasn't the case against Valentine.

Stingy defense by the Swede girls nearly held the Badgers scoreless in the third quarter.



A free throw from Brittney O'Kief with 25 seconds left on the clock prevented a shutout in the period.

Gothenburg was up 39-15 heading into the final frame when Lecher was able to play everyone on the bench.

Geiken added six rebounds to her stats while senior Jacey Wiggins dished out five assists.

High scorer for Valentine was Sydney Belville with nine points.