

## Minden girls avenge earlier tourney loss

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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MINDEN—Despite a regular-season loss to the Whippets Saturday night, Gothenburg's girls basketball coach doesn't believe his Swedes' earlier win over state-ranked Minden in the Southwest Conference semi-finals was a fluke.

"It was just an off night," said Chris Lecher of Gothenburg's 66-41 loss at Minden. "Going back there, I hoped we would play better but now we just have to learn and move on."

The biggest difference between Saturday's game and the upset a week before, Lecher said, was turnovers.

"The stats show 23 but after watching the film I'm thinking it had to be more like 30," the coach said. "That's something we haven't seen the last few games."

Gothenburg started strong against the Whippets, matching their scoring in the first quarter 14-14.

"I remember thinking in the first quarter that we weren't playing very well and we were still right there with them," Lecher said.

Then Minden began to pull away in the second period, taking a 32-23 lead into halftime.

While the Swedes never threw in the towel in the second half, they couldn't match Minden's scoring, especially from behind the three-point line.

The Whippets had eight three-pointers, six from junior Brooke Kissinger.

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Brittyn Munster led the way for Gothenburg with 10 points. Regan Geiken and Taylor Wolf contributed nine points each.

The Swedes move to 12-9 on the season while Minden improved to 17-3.

Gothenburg has only one game remaining before the C1-11 sub-district next week.

They will close out the regular season hosting Ainsworth on Friday.

The Swedes defeated the Bulldogs (17-4) in the championship of the SWC tournament.

“We need to come back strong,” Lecher said, “and take care of business. We want to go into the post-season on a positive note.”

Friday’s varsity game is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Official brackets for the sub-district will be released Thursday. Gothenburg should go in as the No. 1 seed, followed by Ogallala, Cozad and Chase County.