

Swede boys hold off Ogallala, win 49-44

Written by Deb Egenberger
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OGALLALA—It wasn't exactly how Swede boys coach Roger Koehler hoped to finish out the regular season.

Few runs through the full offensive set, unforced turnovers, a little lax on defense and, overall, not very precise.

"We weren't crisp. For whatever reason, we didn't play well," Koehler said of Friday's final regular-season game at Ogallala. "But we survived. We got the win. I guess that's what matters."

Gothenburg managed to hold off the Indians 49-44 to round out the regular season with a 7-13 record.

"I think we're better than our record shows," Koehler said.

And more than five points better than Ogallala (2-18), he said.

On Friday, though, the Indians kept the score tight throughout the game.

Tied 9-9 at the end of the first quarter, the Swedes couldn't pull away.

At halftime, Gothenburg had a slim 21-19 advantage with a couple of players in foul trouble.

"Logan (Koehler) only played two seconds of the second quarter," the coach said, "and Blake (Ristine) got his third foul in the second too."

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Thankfully, he said, neither was called for an infraction in the second half.

The Swedes pushed ahead to a 38-32 lead heading into the final period and broadened that gap to as many as 10 with a couple of minutes left to play but a pair of banked three-pointers by the Indians tightened things up again.

“That has to be the best Ogallala has shot all year,” Koehler said.

Ristine was the leading scorer for the Swedes with 16 points, followed by Tanner Borchardt with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Logan Koehler chipped in 13 points and nine rebounds with seven assists.

This week provides a fresh start for the Swedes as C1-11 sub-district action began Tuesday night.

“Cozad has established themselves as the front runner of the sub-district with their record but I think we definitely have as good a chance as any to get out of the sub.”

Gothenburg played Chase County in the late game Tuesday with results not available for this issue of The Times.

A win would put the Swedes in the sub-district final at Lexington at 7 p.m. Thursday facing the winner of the Cozad-Ogallala game.