

Swedes disrupted by weather

Written by Austin Benson

Thursday, 05 September 2013 13:21 - Last Updated Thursday, 05 September 2013 13:38



3 delays, multiple turnovers hurt against Ogallala.

In a rain-soaked, lightning-delayed game, the lead—and the football—slipped out of Gothenburg's hands in the second half Friday as the Swedes fell to Ogallala, 20-7.

Three lightning delays in the game lasted more than a combined two hours. The game finally ended at about 1:15 a.m.

Turnovers affected the outcome more than the weather.

"We lost the turnover battle 4-0," Haake said.

Two lost fumbles, a pass interception for a touchdown and a couple of fumbled snaps stymied the Swede offense. Still, Gothenburg held a 282-187 edge in total offense.

The defense played really well Haake said. The game plan going into Friday's match-up was to stop Dylan Folchert, Brody Cleveland and Wes Orr.

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Gothenburg ran the ball eight straight times on its first possession taking the ball from their own 39 yard line into the red zone of Ogallala.

A 15-yard halfback pass from Ross Ostendorf to quarterback Blake Ristine put the Swedes ahead 7-0 with 5:32 left in the first quarter.

Ogallala tied the score at 7-7 in the second quarter. They marched the ball down the field capped by a one-yard quarterback keeper by Folchert.

The first delay, lasting an hour and a half, occurred right after halftime and sent both teams back into their locker rooms.

“It’s tough getting fired up and ready to go, then stopping play, and getting ready to go again,” head coach Craig Haake said.

The teams were given a brief warm-up before resuming play.

After halftime, Gothenburg moved the ball down the field on a 24-yard pass play from Ristine to Jacob Clark to convert on third down.



After three short runs, Gothenburg attempted to punt but the punter was ruled downed retrieving a low snap to give the ball to the Indians near midfield.

Folchert busted a 22-yard run. Two plays later—and just a minute before the second lightning delay—he got free again, scampering for a 31-yard touchdown, and the Swedes trailed 14-7.

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Gothenburg's bad luck continued after the second delay. On the first play Ogallala picked off a Swede pass and returned it for a touchdown and a 20-7 lead.

The Swedes rallied back with a 20-yard pass where Ristine connected with Ostendorf at the 45-yard line.

The trio of Ostendorf, Ristine and Zach Wolf marched behind the offensive line and got down to Ogallala's two before the drive stalled.

Going for it on fourth down, a fumbled snap turned it over to Ogallala ending the last scoring opportunity the Swedes.

Gothenburg ran the ball 34 times for 147 yards, led by Ristine with 48 yards and Wolf adding 40 yards.

"We weren't as effective as I would have liked running the ball," Haake said. "With that, I think we did enough to win, we just didn't convert."

Gothenburg (0-1) will take on Mitchell (0-0) at home Friday looking for its first victory of the season.

Haake said Gothenburg will worry about themselves going into the game and make improvements on last weeks loss.

"They didn't play last week so there isn't really anything to go off of," Haake said.

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Gothenburg will work on maintaining blocks and being more physical this week, he said.

Kick-off is set for 7 p.m. Friday night.

abenson@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636