

Active bats lead to wins over Lex, Minden

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Strong hitting led to a couple of easy victories at a triangular Sept. 24 hosted by the Gothenburg softball team.

The Swedes banged out 10 hits in each of the two games, an 11-3 win over Minden and a 6-1 victory over Lexington.

The Minutemaids beat the Whippets 8-1 in the other contest.

“We only had one poor inning,” Swede coach Roger Neujahr said of the triangular.

Big inning carries Swedes

Gothenburg busted open a close game against Minden with a seven-run fourth inning. Going into that frame, the Swedes led by just one run.

“I’ve always felt over the years that on Parent’s Night sometimes we aren’t into it like we should be,” Neujahr said. “I think that’s kind of how we started.”

The Whippets collected four singles from the first four batters of the second inning to go up 3-0.

Gothenburg responded with a three-run rally of its own in the bottom of the frame. Kaitlyn Aden stroked a two-run single during the rally.

The Swedes edged ahead 4-3 on an RBI single by Kyndal Holmes in the third inning.

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Holmes used the long ball to help Gothenburg take control in the fourth inning. Her two-run homer was joined by a two-run double by Becca Riley.

“Rebecca (Anderson) looked awesome (on the mound) in the first inning,” the coach said, but ran into problems with a sore shoulder.

Karleigh Kleinknecht won the game in relief.

Franzen blasts Maids

Emily Franzen connected for three extra-base hits, including a two-run home run, in a 6-1 Swede victory over Lexington.

“The key hit was Emily Franzen’s home run in the first inning,” Neujahr said. “I don’t know how far it cleared the fence but it was crushed.”

The right-center blast put Gothenburg ahead 2-0 after one.

Katelin Schultze hit a solo shot over the fence in the second inning to cut the Swede lead to 2-1.

Franzen doubled in another run in the third inning and then scored herself on a single by Kyndal Holmes.

The fifth inning started with a double by Franzen, who later scored on a ground ball by Kerry Wellmann.

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Katlin Harm tallied the final run of the game for the Swedes. She singled and advanced and scored on wild pitches.

Neujahr praised Franzen and Holmes for their efforts.

“Talk about a senior night,” he said. “Kyndal hit a home run in the first game that was a smash. Emily, the other senior, hits one in the second game.”

Kleinknecht, although giving up the homer, allowed just two other Lexington base runners in the game, both on singles.

“She was under control of spotting her fast ball in different locations that I thought kept Lex hitters off balance,” the coach said.