

Mistakes multiply for Swedes in 4-3 loss to North Platte

Written by Gothenburg Times
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After playing error-free softball for several games, Gothenburg found a couple of errors quite costly in a 4-3 loss to North Platte at home on Oct. 1.

The Swedes committed just one error in their last three contests. However, mistakes opened the door for North Platte in the first and third innings.

An infield pop-up was dropped in the opening frame. Two North Platte runs scored after that.

Gothenburg got one of those runs back in the bottom of the inning. Katlin Harm led off with a walk and then pinch runner Kassidy Kottwitz stole second. She came home on a single by Emily Franzen. Kyndal Holmes followed with a single but both she and Franzen were stranded.

A couple of hits put runners on base with two outs for the Bulldogs in the third inning. An infield ground ball wasn't handled successfully and both runs scored on the error to make it 4-1.

Gothenburg cut the deficit to two runs with a solo run in the fifth inning. Two hits and a walk loaded the bases before a walk to Ashley Eskew forced in a run. A strikeout ended the scoring threat.

Two Swedes were thrown out at home in the seventh inning limiting a rally to just one run. Olivia Lafleur and Becca Riley got things started, each with a single. Emily Franzen's single to left field looked like it might drive in Lafleur.

"(The left fielder) had to field it clean, had to make a great throw and the catcher had to catch it, had to put a great tag on," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. "All of those happened." Lafleur was tagged out attempting to score.

Holmes hit a spinning grounder between the pitcher and first base that was handled cleanly and

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a throw to the catcher cut down Riley who was trying to score.

It wasn't over yet, though. Holmes, who reached first on the fielder's choice, stole second and pinch runner Josee Hotz, running for Franzen, scored on the throw to second.

A single by Eskew kept the rally going, but a ground out soon ended it.

"We had an opportunity and had them on the ropes," Neujahr said. "We just needed one more hit or for them to commit an error, anything like that, and I think we win the ball game."

Gothenburg had a 10-6 edge in hits but couldn't build on that advantage.

"We beat them everywhere technically except where it counted, on the scoreboard," the coach said. The big difference came in the errors column with Gothenburg finishing with four while North Platte had just one, that didn't contribute to any scoring.

Franzen led the Swedes with three singles in four at-bats.

Rebecca Anderson started on the mound for Gothenburg and suffered the loss. Karleigh Kleinknecht threw four innings in relief.

NORTH PLATTE BEATS JVs

North Platte used a 14-hit attack to defeat the Gothenburg reserves, 12-1.

The line score:

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North Platte 525—12

Gothenburg 100—1

HITTING: Ebony Anderson and Olivia Lafleur each had a double.

PITCHING: Morgan Cardeñas struck out three and walked one while picking up the loss.