

## Early Gothenburg lead holds for opening-game win over Lex

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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The Gothenburg girls basketball team controlled the game from the opening tip and beat the Lexington Minutemaids 39-27 in the first game of the season Thursday.

Swede guard MaKaela Franzen scored on a lay-up on the first possession of the game and Lexington was forced to play catch up all night.

Each of Gothenburg's starters scored a basket in the first quarter while the Minutemaids struggled to find offensive rhythm scoring only twice.

Kyndal Holmes broke a four-minute Swede scoring gap with eight seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Gothenburg led 12-5 heading into the second quarter of play.

"We jumped out to a nice start but then our offense got stagnant," head coach Chris Lecher said. "We had more turnovers than we wanted to have and missed some easy shots. First game stuff."

Lexington opened the second quarter with back-to-back scores closing the Gothenburg lead

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down to three before going cold for three minutes.

Meanwhile, Gothenburg's Regan Geiken hit seven of her team high 18 points in the second, with a big basket at the end of the half to keep the Swede lead at nine points, 23-14.

Coming out of the break, Lexington reversed roles and outscored the Swedes 10-7.

A six-point run by Lexington in the final minute pulled the Minutemaids within six, 30-24.

Going into the final quarter of play, Lecher said the team talked about stopping Lexington's scorers to win the game.

"The biggest thing we stressed coming out of the third quarter break was finding their shooters and getting on them," Lecher said.

The Swedes executed the plan to near perfection holding Lexington to three points in the period.

After a Geiken basket and a Lex turnover, Gothenburg's Emily Franzen grabbed an offensive rebound and put the ball up for two points giving the Swedes a 10-point lead with 5:08 left in the game.



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MaKaela Franzen extended Gothenburg's lead to 12 with a lay-up with just over two minutes remaining to seal the game.

Geiken led the Swedes with 18 points and 15 rebounds while Lexington's leading scorer was Hannah Ostrom with nine points.

Both teams shot under 30% from the field in the contest.

Lecher said he was satisfied with the win but the Swedes have to continue improving.

"The biggest thing with this win was that we have to get better and move forward," Lecher said.

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