The Gothenburg girls basketball team was the first team to be ahead of Holdrege this season but a 9-0 run in the third quarter Friday helped the Dusters run to a 54-30 victory over the Swedes.

"We were ahead of them most of the first half," Lecher said. "It was a good effort."

The Swedes jumped out to an 11-10 first-quarter lead in a game head coach Chris Lecher called fast-paced.

"They were pressing us and sped us up a little, but we played a good game," Lecher said. "Holdrege is a good team."

Gothenburg was down five late in the second quarter when the Swedes took a bad shot and Holdrege secured a rebound and made a layup before time expired to give the Dusters a 23-16 lead.

"Our first half defense was good up to that point," Lecher said. "We had them on the ropes and that broke us."

Gothenburg's Regan Geiken and Aryn Meisinger were on the bench in foul trouble while the Dusters made the end-of-half run.

"The girls stepped up with those two out and we were hanging with them," Lecher said.

The Swedes came out of the lockerroom looking to swing momentum in their favor but Holdrege seemed to make all its shots, Lecher said.

The Dusters hit three three-pointers in a row without Gothenburg scoring, he said.

“Our defense was solid and girls came off screens and threw it up,” Lecher said. “A banked in three hurt us.”

Holdrege led Gothenburg 36-24 going into the final stanza and outscored the Swedes by 12 in the fourth quarter.

“I am encouraged with how we played them,” Lecher said. “They are a very good team and we just ran out of gas.”

Geiken led Gothenburg in scoring with 15 points but Lecher said the Swedes need to find more scoring options after Christmas break.

“Teams will be putting more attention on Regan and we need girls to attack and score or dish the ball.”

The Dusters leading scorer was Rachel Gelden with 11 points.

The Swedes don’t play until the Cabelas Shootout in Sidney Jan. 2-4. Lecher said the girls will need rest and a positive attitude.

“Even though we lost there are things we can take and build on.”

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