

## Girls find victories hard to achieve

Written by Austin Benson

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### Swedes suffer close losses at Cabela's Shootout

The Gothenburg girls basketball team struggled in each of its three games at the Cabela's Holiday Basketball Shootout in Sidney last weekend losing two games by three points and handing Chase County its first win of the season.

The Swedes had opportunities to win the games, head coach Chris Lecher said, but mistakes at key moments didn't allow that to happen.

#### Gering gets past Swedes

The Swedes were ahead of the eventual tournament champions for most of the game, Lecher said.

However, a four-point lead with just over two minutes remaining in regulation dwindled and was surrendered before Gothenburg was defeated 48-45 in overtime.

Both teams struggled to find rhythm in the first quarter, Lecher said, which resulted in a 6-5 lead for the Swedes.

Gothenburg took control in the second quarter outscoring the Bulldogs 11-7 en route to a 17-12 halftime lead.

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“We played pretty good basketball in the first half,” Lecher said.

Gothenburg came out of the break looking to push the ball in transition, Lecher said, outscoring Gering 10-9 in the third quarter.

Leading 27-21, Gothenburg continued its fast-paced play against Gering’s adjustments.

“They forced us into some turnovers that were converted into points late in the game,” Lecher said. “We ran instead of slowing the game down and burning the clock.”



Gering also started hitting shots, he said, which contributed to the Bulldogs tying the game after four quarters of play and edging out the Swedes by three in overtime.

“The girls played hard,” he said.

Emily Franzen led the team with 12 points and Lecher said she played well.

“Emily shot the ball well and has this season for us,” he said.

The Bulldogs’ high scorer was Allie Vacha with 17.

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### Longhorns gain first victory

Head coach Chris Lecher didn't have much to say about Gothenburg's 41-32 to Chase County on Friday.

"We didn't play well and we didn't shoot well," Lecher said. "Down the stretch we didn't get baskets when we needed them."

The Swedes trailed the entire game.

They were outscored in each of the four quarters as the Longhorns' zone defense caused offensive problems for Gothenburg.

"We didn't hit any outside shots on them," Lecher said, which allowed them to stay in their zone defense.

Gothenburg trailed 21-15 at halftime and the offensive woes continued into the third.

"We couldn't get anything going on offense," Lecher said.

To Chase County's credit, he said they were making shots that he hadn't seen them make on film.

Gothenburg scored six points in the third and was behind 29-21 before the final frame.

The Swedes managed 11 points in the fourth, but the Longhorns scored 12 to win the game.

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The victory for Chase County was its first of the season.

“I don’t think it was a case of us overlooking them as an opponent,” Lecher said. “They came ready to play.”

High scorer for Gothenburg was Regan Geiken with 15 points.

Paige Spady paced Chase County with 13 of her own.

Sidney beats Swedes by 3

In its last game of the tournament, Gothenburg lost a close battle 41-38 to the host Red Raiders.

Head coach Chris Lecher said the girls played a lot better that game.

“We shot 49% as a team and I can live with that,” Lecher said.

What stands out in the game is the amount of free throws both teams shot.

Gothenburg attempted only two free throws compared to the Sidney’s 31 attempts.

In a three-point game, free throws are important, Lecher said.

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Both teams struggled on offense in the first quarter as the Swedes trailed 7-6. However, Gothenburg rang off 14 points in the second period to lead the Red Raiders 20-14 at halftime.

Sidney came out shooting well in the second half, Lecher said, hitting some outside shots and putting up 16 points in the period.

Along with their offense, the Red Raiders set up a press against Gothenburg that was enough to slow the girls' scoring.

Leading by two, 30-28, heading into the fourth and final quarter, Sidney scored 11 points and won by three.

Lecher was not pleased with the outcome as he said he believed they should have won the game.

"They were a decent team but we had opportunities to win that game," Lecher said.

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