Written by Deb Egenberger Wednesday, 06 January 2010 22:56 -



Plenty of season left, coach says.

The Swede boys basketball team may have lost both games during the Gothenburg Holiday Tournament last week but all is not lost.

Coach Kent Koehn says Gothenburg's 51-45 loss to Ord in the first round and 50-39 defeat by Boone Central in the consolation are now water under the bridge.

"There's a lot of basketball left," Koehn said. "We can chalk the first semester up to inexperience. Now it's time to learn from our mistakes and decide where we're going from here."

Ord's players were big and they were deliberate, Koehn said.

"Their big kid in the post (6-foot-5 Nolan Clausen) was really patient," the coach said. "He either got layups or got fouled every time he got the ball."

At the same time, Koehn said his boys were not patient.

"I'm not sure we ever ran a complete offensive set," he said.

The Chanticleers stepped out to a 16-11 lead in the first quarter and were up 22-20 at halftime, fueled mostly by a trio of three-pointers from Ryan Callan.

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Then the wheels fell off Gothenburg's offense entirely in the third period.

"We came out completely flat," Koehn said. "And when our offense went bad, our defense followed suit."

Ord pushed ahead in the third period, outscoring Gothenburg 19-7.

"Then we had to spend an awful lot of energy trying to get back into the game," Koehn said.

The Swedes made a surge, sparked by the defensive play of senior Mark Hilderbrand.

"Mark was all over the court," Koehn said. "He was getting his hand on a lot

of passes. When other kids see that kind of intensity, they follow along."

The Swedes held the Chanticleers to a single field goal and eight free throws in the fourth quarter but it wasn't enough to get the win.

Hilderbrand was the leading scorer for Gothenburg with 12 points.

Sick with the flu the next day, Koehn had to watch the 50-39 consolation loss to Boone Central on film.

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"That may have affected the team a little," he said, "but it was more about not attacking the zone than me not being on the bench."

The Swedes battled in the first period to take a 16-14 lead but went cold in the second quarter scoring only two buckets and a free throw to trail 29-21 at the half.

"They were passing the ball around the perimeter looking for the long shot instead of attacking the gaps in the zone," Koehn said. "It was one of those winnable games that got away from us."

None of the Swedes scored in double figures. Landen Haake was high point with nine followed by Joel Teahon and Derek Franzen with eight points each.

The Swedes move to 3-5 on the season. After hosting state-ranked Minden Tuesday night, the Swedes will entertain Sutherland Friday night.

The Sailors are 2-5 but Koehn says record mean little between the teams.

"If recent history repeats itself, the first team to 30 will win," the coach said.

In the 2007-08 season, Sutherland won the matchup 35-32. Last year, the Swedes took the game 34-29.

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"Every game from here on out is ours for the taking," Koehn said.

