

## Swedes girls hang on to beat Sailors

Written by Austin Benson

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The Gothenburg girls basketball team edged out a 41-38 victory over the Sutherland Sailors Friday.

In the Swedes last five games three have come down to finish in a three point margin, with Gothenburg winning two of them.

Head coach Chris Lecher said it was nice to get a win in a close game but he was not satisfied with the 23% shooting.

Gothenburg started off the game quickly with an 8-0 lead after holding the Sailors scoreless for nearly six minutes.

That early lead turned into a 14-7 advantage when Kyndal Holmes stole the ball and threw up a shot from 30 feet that went in as the first quarter came to an end.

“Our girls executed the gameplan early and I’m sure Sutherland was wondering what was going on,” Lecher said.

Gothenburg put pressure on the Sailors early, he added, which led to the Swede lead.

Once again, Gothenburg outscored Sutherland in the second quarter 11-8 while holding the Sailors leading scorers Jalyne Schuster and Sam Staggs in check.

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“Defensively we played really well in the first half,” Lecher said. “We knew if those girls were contained we’d be okay.”

Gothenburg was up 10 points at intermission, 25-15.

Second-half scoring didn’t come near as easily for the Swedes.

Both teams opened up the third quarter cold, scoring one bucket each in the first four minutes. Gothenburg and Sutherland eventually found their rhythm scoring four more baskets apiece to close out the third frame.



Gothenburg led 34-25 heading into the fourth quarter when the Sailors rattled the Swedes with a 3-2 half-court trap.

The Swedes scored with 6:55 remaining in the fourth. Sutherland then forced eight turnovers before the Swedes’ next score.

In the span, the Sailors scored six times and cut the deficit to four with 1:27 left to play.

“Their trap made us completely lose our heads,” Lecher said. “We knew they’d use it and we didn’t fundamentally take care of the ball.”

The Swedes were sent to the line and made 3-6 free throws and with 13 seconds on the clock,

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Gothenburg was ahead 40-38.

After consecutive turnovers, Aryn Meisinger made a free throw before a three-point attempt to tie the game fell short for the Sailors.

Regan Geiken led the Swedes with 14 points while Emily Franzen chipped in 11.

Sam Staggs topped the Sailors with 13 points.

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