

Gothenburg shows fatigue in 46-38 loss to Centura

Written by Austin Benson
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Gothenburg's tired legs and good defense by Centura led to a 46-38 Centurion win Saturday over the Swedes.

Playing their sixth game in 10 days, the Swedes ran out of gas late, head coach Chris Lecher said.

"We got within five points near the end of the game but couldn't get over that final hump," Lecher said.

In the beginning of the contest, Centura keyed its attention on Regan Geiken in the post.

"If she touched it, there were girls around her," Lecher said.

Gothenburg was a little stagnant on offense, he said, and that led to the early 10-3 deficit after the first quarter.

"Once we got it inside there was no cutting or moving," Lecher said. "Some of the girls were just watching and waiting."

The Swedes adjusted in the second quarter scoring 11 points but gave up 15 in the process.

"We started moving the ball better," he said.

Trailing 25-14 at halftime, Gothenburg made adjustments to close the gap.

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However, with those adjustments came a surprise from Centura.

The Centurions began taking and making outside shots, Lecher said. Something he hadn't seen from them on tape.

"We were playing them to drive it hard," he said.

Successful shooting helped the Centurions extend their lead to 12 heading into the final stanza of play.

Trailing 37-25, Gothenburg used a 3-2 zone trap to pressure Centura and it caused turnovers and that led to Swede baskets.

Even though Gothenburg outscored the Centurions 13-9 in the fourth, missed free throws contributed to the loss, Lecher said.

"We missed them all game and shot 35%," he said. "On the year we are around 65% which would've pulled the game closer."

The Swedes trailed by as many as 12 but couldn't get closer than five in their eight-point loss.

Regan Geiken led the team in scoring with 11 points.

With three days to prepare, Lecher said the girls will work on position skills and zone offense against Cozad and Chase County.

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Another benefit of having days off is the girls can get their legs back under them, he said, in time for the game against Cozad Thursday.

“One thing about it is that because it’s us they are playing, we will get Cozad’s best shot,” Lecher said.

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