

Swede girls avenge early-season loss

Written by Austin Benson

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Gothenburg's girls basketball team avenged a loss to Chase County on Jan. 3 by beating the Longhorns 37-19 in their own gym Saturday.

The Swedes didn't allow more than six points in any of the four quarters and limited themselves to committing only 13 turnovers.

"I was really proud of the girls for bouncing back after a loss the night before. That was the biggest positive," head coach Chris Lecher said. "The girls played a much smarter basketball game that was nice to watch.

The Swedes jumped out to an 11-5 lead in the first quarter.

Lecher said Gothenburg got off to a good start, but didn't force any action when things didn't go as planned.

The Swedes offensive output wasn't as overpowering in the second quarter as they scored only eight points, but a 19-11 lead at halftime was better than 21-15 deficit to Chase County less than a month ago.

At halftime, Lecher said he talked to the girls about staying patient on offense, focusing on free throws and cutting down on turnovers.

"In the previous two games, we shot 35% and 42% from the line," Lecher said. Against Chase County Gothenburg shot 12-18, or 67%, from the charity stripe

"In the second half we took what was there offensively and didn't force it," Lecher said.

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In the third quarter, Gothenburg continued making good decisions and outscored the Longhorns 11-3. Defensively, the Swedes contested shots and talked on screens when they played man defense, leading to a 30-14 advantage heading into the final period.

In the fourth quarter, both offenses struggled putting the ball through the hoop but Gothenburg's lead extended to 18 points before the final buzzer sounded.

Seniors Regan Geiken and Aryn Meisinger led the Swedes in scoring with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Destiny Reinke paced Chase County with eight points.

Lecher said he hopes the girls use momentum from beating the Longhorns to defeat a scrappy Broken Bow team Friday.

"Those girls will play hard against us," he said. "We have to hit shots when given the chance and play smart."

He added this week in practice will stress the importance of ball control and setting screens on offense to get open looks.

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