

4th quarter rally earns 44-38 win

Written by Austin Benson
Friday, 31 January 2014 15:25 -

Gothenburg enjoyed a fun and loud environment in Broken Bow after traveling to Indian territory for the first round of the Southwest Conference tournament Monday.

The Swede boys opened the game with a three-point basket but had to come back in the fourth quarter to beat Broken Bow 44-38.

Gothenburg surged ahead in the first taking an 11-3 lead into the second quarter.

“We played excellent defense and didn’t give their shooters many quality looks,” head coach Roger Koehler said. “We didn’t make a lot of shots but we got more opportunities than they did.”

In the second period, Swede big man Tanner Borchardt picked up his second foul sending him to the bench.

The Indians took advantage of the open paint, Koehler said, converting good looks at the rim.

“We fell asleep defensively on some plays in addition to their good looks at the basket,” Koehler said.

With Borchardt seated Broken Bow outscored Gothenburg 15-13 but the Swedes still held a 24-18 lead.

“We didn’t make any major adjustments at half but I emphasized winning the loose-ball battle,” Koehler said. “We were getting one hand on them while they got two hands on it. That changed in the second half.”

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Adam Speck hit a three-point bucket to kick off the third quarter but Gothenburg couldn't find rhythm offensively as shots were off target.

Meanwhile, Broken Bow put a run together to steal momentum taking a 31-30 lead into the final frame.

The Swedes executed offensive sets and got good looks that propelled them to a 14-point quarter. While scoring, Gothenburg's defense contained Bow's shooters.

In a matchup Friday, the Indians made five threes in the closing minutes to nearly knock off the Swedes but Monday was a different story.

A similar story was Collin Hahn and his sharp shooting from the outside.

He knock down three treys in the game to tie Borchardt with a team high 12 points.

"Collin is a great sixth man to have come into games," Koehler said. "He's a scoring threat and provides energy."

At times the Swedes played with three freshman and didn't miss a beat, Koehler said.

"Ty Clement came in and played well. He didn't hurt us," he said. "We have to keep him moving in a positive direction."

Gothenburg hosts Minden in a SWC semifinal contest Friday at 5:30 p.m.

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If Gothenburg continues to play up to their ability, Koehler said they should come out on top, but not without a challenge.

“They’ve had an up and down season so far but they always play well around this time,” he said. “It’s the conference tournament.”

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