

First-quarter deficit too large

Written by Deb Egenberger

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MINDEN 40	
GOTHENBURG 22	
	FG FT PF RB PT
A. Abramson	1-3 0-1 2 3 2
A. Clark	0-3 0-0 1 2 0
E. Max	8-19 6-9 1 8 22
B. Munster	0-1 2-2 1 0 2
T. Paul	0-2 0-0 0 2 0
K. Peterson	2-5 0-0 4 3 4
J. Wiggins	1-1 0-0 0 0 3
TOTALS	12-34 8-12 10 19 33
Three pointers: Gothenburg, Jarise Wiggins, J. Minden, 5.	
Field goals: Gothenburg, 12-34, 35%; Minden, 20-36, 56%.	
Free throws: Gothenburg, 8-12, 67%; Minden, 4-7, 57%.	
Fouls: Gothenburg, 10; Minden, 15.	
Rebounds: Gothenburg, 5 offensive, 14 defensive, 19 total; Minden, 7 offensive, 13 defensive, 20 total.	
Turnovers: Gothenburg, 22; Minden, 15.	
Scoring by quarters:	
Minden	29 5 4 11-49
Gothenburg	8 11 7 7-33

Swede girls can't overcome Minden's early lead.

Oh, what a difference one quarter can make in a high school girls basketball game.

Take away the 29-8 first period of Gothenburg's game with Minden on Jan. 5 and the outcome would likely be quite different.

Minus the first quarter, Gothenburg beat the Whippets 25-20.

But because four quarters are required and because the Swedes couldn't get out of that huge crevice, Minden prevailed 49-33.

"Once we got past the first quarter we played really well," said Swede coach Tim Peterson. "We even cut the lead to single digits more than once. You just can't dig yourself that big of a hole and climb out of it against a good team like Minden."

The Whippets built their early lead around successful perimeter shots.

Peterson said the Swedes normally start a game in man-to-man defense but scouting reports indicated they should force Minden to take outside shots.

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“We started in a zone and they made 5-of-6 three-point attempts in the first quarter,” the coach said. “Sometimes you out-think yourself. I should have gone with my instincts.”

Gothenburg outscored Minden 11-5 in the second quarter and 7-4 in the third, clamping down on the Whippets defensively.

“We have a lot of fight in us,” Peterson said. “Sometimes our shooting doesn’t match our fight but the girls never give up.”

Allowing just 20 points in three quarters for a Minden team that averages 50 points per game is solid defense, Peterson said.

Swede senior Emily Max led Gothenburg with 22 points and nine rebounds.

Hallie Bauer led the Whippets with 24 points.