

Swedes come alive in 5-1 win at Lexington

Written by Greg Viergutz

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Extra-base hits outnumber singles.

Gothenburg's offense came alive in the late innings to earn a 5-1 victory at Lexington Thursday.

The Swedes were sluggish on both offense and defense early in the contest.

"I wasn't nervous, I was scared," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. "In the third inning, I thought something isn't right."



Between the first and second innings he sent his squad on a sprint to the outfield fence and back to try and get rid of any jitters.

Still, the coach was pleased with the win.

"When you only get seven hits but your extra-base hits outnumber your singles, it's a good sign," he said. "Our first three runs were with two outs. That, to me, is a sign of a good team."

Gothenburg took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on back-to-back two-out doubles by Alisha Ballmers and Jordyn Haake.

Lex knotted the score in the third, also with two outs. Halle Gydesen tripled and then scored on an infield error.

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KaTrina Winter singled to start a two-run rally for Gothenburg in the fifth inning. Roni Putnam singled and stole second to put both in scoring position.

With two outs, Bre Messersmith used a newly-mastered soft slap hitting technique trying to place the ball for a run-scoring infield hit.

“Normally, she can soft-slap to any spot she wants,” Neujahr said. “The shortstop was back. We have a contact play when the girl is running and Bre can beat it out.”



“She is good at it. She’s just perfected that this summer.”

This time, though, two foul balls changed the strategy. Hitting away, she pounded a ball over the centerfielder’s head to give Gothenburg a 3-1 lead.

The Swedes added two more runs in the seventh.

Ali Abramson singled to get things going. She scored on Putnam’s double. Putnam came home on a ground out.

Messersmith went the distance on the mound striking out six and walking just one.

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“You know that your drop and your changeup are probably working when your shortstop has six assists and your first baseman has 11 putouts. That tells you there were many ground ball throw outs,” Neujahr said.

Messersmith had three RBIs while Putnam and Haake each had a double and a single.

GOTHENBURG 5				LEXINGTON 1					
	AB	R	H	RBI		AB	R	H	RBI
Roni Putnam	4	2	1	1					
Eric Messersmith	4	0	1	3					
Shelby Eggleston	4	0	0	0					
Neville Lingar	2	0	0	0					
Karen Franzen	2	0	0	0					
Alicia Ballmer	2	1	0	0					
Jordyn Haake	3	0	2	1					
Katrina Winer	2	1	0	0					
Al Abramson	3	1	1	0					
TOTALS	29	5	5	5					
Pitchers									
Messersmith	W	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		
Messersmith	W	5	1	1	1	0	0		
The line score:									
Gothenburg	000	000	2--	5					
Lexington	001	000	0--	1					