Two easy victories for the Swedes in the Gothenburg Invitational Saturday were just the warm-ups for a battle against future district foe St. Paul.

Gothenburg breezed to wins over Southern Valley, 12-0, and Minden, 14-0. St. Paul didn't cooperate, though, beating the Swedes 5-1 to win the invitational crown.

Gothenburg hosts Grand Island Northwest Thursday for the final home game of the season. The Swedes will compete in district action next week in St. Paul.

Freebies pave the way

Gothenburg received free passes 10 times via walks and twice from hit batters in the 12-0 win.

"Their pitcher got hurt at Ogallala and they didn't have another pitcher," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said.

Gothenburg sent 12 players to the plate during a nine-run first inning. Brittyn Munster's bases-loaded triple was the big hit for the Swedes. Three more runs were forced in on bases-loaded walks.

The Swedes added two more runs in the second and one in the third to end the game early.

Jordyn Haake (9-3) tossed a three-hitter for Gothenburg. Shelby Eggleston had a double and a single.

Reserves see action

Quite a few Gothenburg reserves saw playing time in the 14-0 victory over Minden.

The outcome wasn't in doubt after the Swedes scores 11 runs in the first inning. Shelby Eggleston emptied the bases with a three-RBI double. Siera Schwanz also doubled in the inning driving in two runs.

Gothenburg failed to take advantage of Kyndal Holmes's two-out double in the second and went scoreless again in the third. The Swedes added three runs in the fourth and, when Minden couldn't score, the game ended early.

Clarissa Lambert kept the Whippets hitless while striking out seven.

Wildcats prevail 5-1

Despite getting beat by more runs than their first encounter, Gothenburg actually played better in the 5-1 loss.

The Swedes struck first when Roni Putnam opened the game with a triple and then came home on a wild pitch.

"Roni got us off to a nice 1-0 lead with a triple," Neujahr said. "We thought things were going to turn around."

The margin didn't last long, though. St. Paul struck

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