

## Gothenburg girls fourth at Cozad

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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**Swedes win one game at tournament.**

COZAD—Every play, every set, every match.

Mental preparedness is essential throughout each game of volleyball.

Gothenburg coach Mary Clark says her players are learning that concept, sometimes the hard way.

The Swede girls won one game and dropped two during the Cozad Invite on Saturday, finishing the seven-team tournament in fourth place.

Gothenburg opened the invite defeating Sutherland 25-21, 25-14.

The Sailors gave the Swedes a few fits in the first game but had no answer for Gothenburg's net play in the second.

"I thought we did pretty well against Sutherland," Clark said. "Then we kind of fell apart against Cambridge. We played flat and looked tired."

It did not help that the Swedes missed five straight serves against the Trojans.

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“You don’t need to give those kinds of easy points to a good team like Cambridge,” Clark said.

The Swedes also had a tough time picking up Cambridge hits.

“They were doing a good job of mixing it up and putting their hits where we weren’t,” the coach said.

The Swedes fell 25-18, 25-14 to move into the losers bracket and play Perkins County for third and fourth place.

“We really didn’t compete well in the first set,” Clark said. “Then we came back and beat them in the second.”

But the Swedes couldn’t hold on, losing 25-20, 17-25, 25-15.

Senior Emily Max had 35 kills on the day with 17 blocks and 30 digs.

Libero Ali Clark had 18 service points and 43 digs.

“You have to be ready to compete, mentally ready, every game,” Clark said.

The Swedes have just one regular-season date before the C1-11 sub-district begins Monday.

Gothenburg, now 11-14 on the season, travels to Ogallala for a triangular with Valentine on Friday. Game time has been moved to 4 p.m. MT.

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Pairing for the sub-district tournament will be released Wednesday (today).