

Swede girls left wanting more

Written by Greg Viergutz

Friday, 13 November 2009 14:39 -



A look back at the 2009 softball season.

Despite posting the team's second most successful softball season on record, Gothenburg players were left wanting more out of the 2009 campaign.

After playing in the state tournament three consecutive years, the Swedes wanted another try to continue the growth of the five-year-old softball program.

Last year, Gothenburg won its first state tournament game ever. This year's team had designs on going deeper into the tournament bracket.

It wasn't meant to be.

Cozad, a Class B softball powerhouse for many years, dropped into Class C this season and competed with Gothenburg for the automatic state tournament berth from District C-6. The Swedes handed the Haymakers one defeat, but couldn't win the final championship game in the double elimination tournament.



"Except for not making it to state—which is huge, of course—I thought it was a very successful season," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said.

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Gothenburg posted a 22-5 record, second only in program history to the 23-5 mark set last year. The Swedes finished the season ranked sixth by the Omaha World-Herald.

The Omaha paper listed the Swedes' record at 20-5 since two games to replace contests lost when Chase County dropped softball were added too late to be sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

The Swedes suffered defeats at the hands of Cozad (three times), McCook and Grand Island. They ended up beating each of those teams.

"We stubbed our big toe against Grand Island Northwest," Neujahr said. "If we could have taken that game back, we would have felt so much better because we would have qualified for state (as a wild card team).

The Swedes featured solid pitching primarily behind the arms of senior Bre Messersmith and freshman Amanda Barkmeier.

Messersmith set a new season record for earned run average at 1.20 and the team's ERA of 1.15 broke the old record by over one-third of a run.

"We gave up very few runs throughout the season," the coach said. "Anytime you get good pitching and play good defense you're always going to be in ball games."

Neujahr said the biggest surprise for him this year was how the team accepted the challenge to continually improve from the start of the season to the end.

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2009 SEASON

22-5
 Cozad 2.....Gothenburg 0
 Gothenburg 9.....Blue Hill 1
 Gothenburg 19.....St. Paul 2
 Gothenburg 5.....Lexington 1
 McCook Invite—1st place
 Gothenburg 9.....Holdrege 2
 McCook 4.....Gothenburg 1
 Gothenburg 5.....North Platte 2
 Gothenburg 8.....McCook 1
 Scamball Invite—1st place
 Gothenburg 1.....Gothenburg 0
 Gothenburg 12.....Alliance 9
 Gothenburg 9.....Scottsbluff 4
 Gothenburg 11.....Chadron 2
 Gothenburg 10.....Holdrege 8
 GINW Invite—2nd place
 Gothenburg 7.....Boone Central 3
 Gothenburg 5.....Aurora 9
 G.I. Northwest 4.....Gothenburg 3
 Gothenburg Invite—1st place
 Gothenburg 14.....So. Valley 4
 Gothenburg 11.....Minden 1
 Gothenburg 5.....St. Paul 2
 Gothenburg 7.....No. Platte Jv 2
 Gothenburg 11.....No. Platte Jv 1
 Gothenburg 13.....GINW 6
 District 6
 Gothenburg 19.....Minden 1
 Cozad 6.....Gothenburg 4
 Gothenburg 11.....So. Valley 9
 Gothenburg 5.....Cozad 4
 Cozad 2.....Gothenburg 1

RECORDS

Bre Messersmith—pitching earned run average, 1.20.
 Kaitlyn Winter— stolen bases, 16 (team record).
 Team—pitching earned run average, 1.15.

CLASS C

Final Standings
 OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
 W-L
 1. Friend.....27-4
 2. Wayne.....30-6
 3. Wahoo.....30-5
 4. Vista-Mead.....27-8
 5. Cozad.....20-9
 6. Gothenburg.....20-5
 7. Syracuse.....17-14
 8. Twin River.....23-8
 9. Central.....18-16
 10. Fairbury.....18-11

ALL-STATE

Senior Bre Messersmith earned Class C All State second team honors from the Omaha World-Herald. Junior Shelby Eggleston received OWH honorable mention. Both were honorable mention selections in the Lincoln Journal Star as was senior Vanessa Lingar.

SWEDE VARSITY 22-5

PITCHING	Inn.	BF	H	R	ER	BB	K	ERA	W-L
Bre Messersmith.....	33.1	381	76	33	16	45	4	1.20	12-4
Amanda Barkmeier.....	57.0	232	46	21	10	61	123	8-1	
Jordyn Haake.....	14.0	54	3	3	1	4	10	0.50	2-0
TEAM.....	104.1	667	125	57	27	116	144	22-5	

HITTING	AB	R	H	IB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	Ave.	On base	SB	Sac	HP	SO
Bre Messersmith.....	76	12	31	25	4	2	0	11	11	.408	.505	2	3	4	3
Shelby Eggleston.....	59	22	23	18	4	1	0	17	7	.390	.449	8	3	1	7
Vanessa Lingar.....	37	1	13	22	11	0	0	21	3	.379	.386	0	1	0	10
Karen Franzen.....	76	14	25	17	8	0	0	23	3	.329	.350	0	5	0	13
KaTrina Winter.....	60	16	19	15	4	0	0	10	3	.317	.338	16	5	0	2
Jordyn Haake.....	65	9	19	15	4	0	0	13	5	.288	.338	1	1	0	13
Roni Putnam.....	85	30	24	17	5	2	0	19	17	.282	.408	7	0	1	5
Ali Abramson.....	68	24	18	17	1	0	0	8	9	.265	.359	12	1	1	11
Alisha Ballmer.....	72	18	19	10	9	0	0	9	3	.264	.299	2	2	1	8
Brittyn Munster.....	24	12	10	8	2	0	0	4	4	.417	.500	3	2	0	4
Shay Wear.....	9	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	.222	.300	1	0	0	3
Payton Prill.....	8	14	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	.125	.300	5	0	0	4
Taylor Wolf.....	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	.111	.273	0	2	0	2
Hanna Wolf.....	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	.000	.000	2	0	1	1
Siera Schwanz.....	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.250	6	0	0	1
Shalene Winter.....	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.125	0	0	0	1
Leah Schwanz.....	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	.000	1	0	0	0
Liz Matthies.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	0	0	1	0
Alyssa Salem.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	1	0	0	0
Amanda Barkmeier.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.000	0	0	0	0
TEAM.....	717	203	225	167	53	5	0	138	74	.314	.382	67	26	10	88

SWEDE RESERVES 6-1-1

PITCHING	Inn.	BF	H	R	ER	BB	K	ERA	W-L
Jordyn Haake.....	28.2	122	18	16	8	12	28	1.95	4-1
Shay Wear.....	5.2	28	4	4	1	6	1	2.44	1-0
Amanda Barkmeier.....	5	18	0	0	2	8	0	0.00	1-0
TEAM.....	39.1	168	22	20	9	16	42	1.60	6-1-1

HITTING	AB	R	H	IB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	Ave.	On base	SB	Sac	HP	SO
Alyssa Salem.....	15	4	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	.670	.670	4	0	0	5
Jordyn Haake.....	19	5	10	6	4	0	0	5	2	.526	.571	0	1	0	1
Payton Prill.....	17	11	7	5	2	0	0	4	9	.412	.515	4	1	0	4
Shay Wear.....	21	13	8	7	0	1	0	5	2	.381	.440	2	3	1	2
Leah Schwanz.....	17	5	6	5	1	0	0	2	4	.353	.476	2	0	0	4
Taylor Wolf.....	24	8	8	5	3	9	9	3	4	.333	.429	2	0	0	0
Shalene Winter.....	7	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	.286	.375	0	0	0	0
Siera Schwanz.....	16	6	4	4	0	0	0	2	2	.250	.368	3	1	1	4
Brittyn Munster.....	12	7	3	2	1	0	0	2	6	.250	.500	4	0	0	4
Amanda Barkmeier.....	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	.250	.400	0	0	0	1
Hanna Wolf.....	16	9	3	3	0	0	0	2	8	.188	.458	3	1	0	4
Kayla Oostendorf.....	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.143	0	0	0	4
KaTrina Winter.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	0	0	0	0
Liz Matthies.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	0	0	0	1
TEAM.....	178	72	53	39	13	1	0	28	40	.298	.430	24	7	2	34